

A Compilation of Maine Veterans' Laws



(This booklet contains excerpts of the laws listed in the State of Maine statutes pertaining to veterans. The laws listed in this booklet are current through the Second Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature)

Compiled by the Bureau of Maine
Veterans' Services – September 29, 2014

**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
Bureau of Veterans Services**

Camp Keyes Headquarters

Location: Camp Keyes, Building 7, Room 104
Mailing Address: 117 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
Telephone (207) 430-6035 Fax Number (207) 626-4471
E-mail: mainebvs@maine.gov

Field Offices

Serving Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties

Maine Veterans' Home
35 State Hospital Drive
Bangor, ME 04401
Tel: (207) 941-3005
Fax: (207) 941-3012
Email: Bangor.MaineBVS@maine.gov

Serving Aroostook County

37 Lombard Road
Caribou, ME 04736
Tel: (207) 492-1173
Fax: (207) 492-1175
Email: Caribou.MaineBVS@maine.gov

**Serving Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford
and Sagadahoc Counties**

Lewiston Vet Center
35 Westminster Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
Tel: (207) 783-5306
Fax: (207) 783-5307
Email: Lewiston.MaineBVS@maine.gov

Serving Washington and Hancock

7 Court Street, Suite 2
Machias, ME 04654
Tel: (207) 255-3306
Fax: (207) 255-4815
Email: Machias.MaineBVS@maine.gov

Serving Cumberland County

Portland National Guard Armory
772 Stevens Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
Tel. (207) 430-5143
Fax (207) 430-6240
Email: Portland.MaineBVS@maine.gov

Serving York County

Springvale Vet Center
628 Main Street
Springvale, ME 04083
Tel. (207) 324-1839
Fax (207) 324-1839
E-mail: Springvale.MaineBVS@maine.gov

**Serving Kennebec, Knox, Waldo,
Somerset and Lincoln Counties**

National Guard Armory
Drummond Avenue
Waterville, ME 04901
Tel: (207) 872-7846
Fax: (207) 872-7858
Email: Waterville.MaineBVS@maine.gov

Claims Office

Veterans Administration
Building 248, Room 110
VAMROC
Togus, ME 04330
Tel: (207) 623-5732
Fax: (207) 287-8449
E-mail: mailvsome@va.gov

Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

Location: Mt. Vernon Rd, Augusta, ME 04330
Mailing Address: 163 Mt. Vernon Road, Augusta, ME 04330
Telephone (207) 287-3481 Fax Number (207) 287-3483
E-mail: mvmcs@maine.gov

TITLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 5 COMMEMORATIVE DAYS AND WEEKS

§131. Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

April 9th of each year shall be designated as Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day shall commemorate, honor and recognize the courage and heroism of all former prisoners of war who served the nation in times of crisis and emergency and who were captured in the defense of the nation.

§136. Prisoner of War - Missing in Action Recognition Day

The Governor annually shall issue a proclamation designating the 3rd Friday in September as Prisoner of War - Missing in Action Recognition Day in remembrance of the courage and plight of American prisoners of war and those missing in action. The proclamation must recommend that the day be observed in an appropriate manner. The State of Maine flag must be flown at half staff when the Governor considers it appropriate. The Governor may issue the proclamation through a media outlet as defined in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 10-B. The Department of Education and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services shall make appropriate information available to citizens, schools, organizations and groups within the limits of their budgets.

§144. Veterans' Week

Each political subdivision and school administrative unit is encouraged to celebrate Veterans' Week during the week, commencing on a Sunday and ending on the next following Saturday, within which November 11th, Veterans' Day, occurs. The celebration may include recognition of the contribution of veterans of the United States and the military service to the foundation of freedom. The celebration may also include public proclamations, appropriate parades and ceremonies and the introduction of curricula in school systems recognizing the efforts of veterans and their contribution to our way of life. During this week, schools may provide an opportunity for convocations and assemblies and in such instances shall make efforts to invite veterans and others to speak on the subject and to cooperate with local veterans' organizations and groups in the celebration of Veterans' Week.

§146. Maine Week of Heroes

Each political subdivision and school administrative unit is encouraged to observe a Maine Week of Heroes during the week, commencing on a Sunday and ending on the next following Saturday, within which September 11th occurs. The observance may include public proclamations, appropriate ceremonies and the introduction of curricula in school systems recognizing the efforts of heroic

people in Maine communities, such as active duty military personnel, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of the National Guard, members of the United States Coast Guard, United States military veterans and all other heroes who have given their courageous service without regard for their own lives or personal safety to benefit the people of this great land and to serve the needs of the citizens of the State.

§150-A. Cold War Victory Day

In recognition of the long and costly struggle of the Cold War, from the end of World War II to the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the State designates the first day of May as Cold War Victory Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging citizens, businesses and organizations to observe the day with appropriate activity to celebrate democracy's victory.

§150-C. Native American Veterans Day

The Governor annually shall issue a proclamation designating June 21st as Native American Veterans Day in remembrance of the courage and dedicated service of Native American members of the United States Armed Forces, and the Governor shall urge the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places and with appropriate ceremony and activity. [2009, c. 51, §1 (NEW).]

§150-G. Vietnam War Remembrance Day

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of those veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during the Vietnam War, the State designates March 30th of each year as Vietnam War Remembrance Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity.

§150-I. Maine Korean War Veteran Recognition Day

In recognition of the service and contributions of those veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during the Korean War, the State designates July 27th of each year as Maine Korean War Veteran Recognition Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity.

CHAPTER 9 SEAL, MOTTO, EMBLEMS AND FLAGS

§206. State flag

The flag to be known as the official flag of the State shall be of blue, of the same color as the blue field in the flag of the United States, and of the following dimensions and designs; to wit, the length or height of the staff to be 9 feet, including brass spearhead and ferrule; the fly of said flag to be 5 feet 6 inches, and to be 4 feet 4 inches on the staff; in the center of the flag there shall be embroidered in silk on both sides of the flag the coat of arms of the State, in proportionate size; the edges to be trimmed with knotted fringe of yellow silk, 2 ½ inches wide; a cord, with tassels, to be attached to the

staff at the spearhead, to be 8 feet 6 inches long and composed of white and blue silk strands. A flag made in accordance with the description given in this section shall be kept in the office of the Adjutant General as a model.

§206-A. Prisoner of war - missing in action flag

1. Required. The prisoner of war - missing in action flag must be flown in the following places until all those individuals designated as prisoners of war or missing in action are released or accounted for:

- A. Above the State House;
- B. At each National Guard facility;
- C. At each courthouse owned by the State on Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day as designated by section 131 and the following national holidays:

- (1) Armed Forces Day, the 3rd Saturday in May;
- (2) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;
- (3) Flag day, June 14th;
- (4) Independence Day, July 4th
- (5) National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the 3rd Friday in September; and
- (6) Veterans Day, November 11th.

2. Optional. A municipality may display the prisoner of war - missing in action flag on a flag pole located at the main office building of the municipality whenever the flag of the United States is flown. A courthouse owned by the State may display the prisoner of war – missing in action flag on any day in addition to those required in subsection 1.

§227. State military history museum

The museum operated by the Maine Military Historical Society, or a successor organization, is the official state military history museum under the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Military Bureau and is known as the Maine Armed Forces Museum.

§252-A. Display

The United States flag and State of Maine flag may be flown at half staff only at such times as specified by the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of Maine.

When the Governor considers it appropriate, the Governor may authorize the United States flag and the State of Maine flag to be flown at half staff throughout a political subdivision or a specified location or locations.

Any United States flag, except those flags having a historical significance, when being displayed must be in good condition at all times, not tattered, not torn and not discolored.

§253. Desecration

No person shall, in any manner, for exhibition or display:

1. Markings. Place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the United States or of this State, or authorized by any law of the United States or this State; or

2. Expose to public view. Expose to public view any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield upon which shall have been printed, painted or otherwise produced, or to which shall have been attached, appended, affixed or annexed any such word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement; or

3. Merchandise. Expose to public view for sale, manufacture or otherwise, or to sell, give or have in possession for sale, for gift or for use for any purpose, any substance, being an article of merchandise, or receptacle, or thing for holding or carrying merchandise, upon or to which shall have been produced or attached any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield, in order to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark or distinguish such article or substance.

Any violation of this section shall be a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$50 may be adjudged.

§254. Mutilation

No person shall publicly or openly mutilate, deface, defile, defy, trample upon, or by word or act cast contempt upon any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield.

Any violation of this section shall be a Class E crime.

§255. Exceptions

This subchapter shall not apply to any act permitted by the statutes of the United States or of this State, or by the United States Army and Navy regulations, nor shall they apply to any printed or written document or production, stationery, ornament, picture or jewelry whereon shall be depicted said flag, standard, color, ensign or shield with no design or words thereon and disconnected with any advertisement.

TITLE 4 JUDICIARY

CHAPTER 8-B VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

§433. Veterans treatment courts

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, “veterans treatment court” means a specialized sentencing docket in select criminal cases in which the defendant is a veteran or a member of the United States Armed Forces to enable veterans agencies and social services agencies to provide treatment for that defendant. The court does not provide treatment but contracts or collaborates with experienced and expert treatment providers.

2. Chief Justice may establish. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court may establish veterans treatment courts for veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces. The Supreme Judicial Court may adopt administrative orders and court rules of practice and procedure as necessary.

3. Federal funding; contracts; cooperative agreements. The State Court Administrator, district attorneys, the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health and Human Services and private service agencies may seek federal funding as it becomes available for the establishment, maintenance and expansion of veterans treatment courts and for the provision by participating agencies of treatment to participating veterans. The Administrative Office of the Courts may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with the departments and agencies to provide treatment and other social services to participants. The departments and agencies shall collaborate and, to the extent possible, provide financial and other assistance to the judicial branch in order to establish and maintain veterans treatment courts.

CHAPTER 23 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§1051. Legal holidays

No court may be held on Sunday or any day designated for the annual Thanksgiving; New Year's Day, January 1st; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the 3rd Monday in January; Washington's Birthday, the 3rd Monday in February; Patriot's Day, the 3rd Monday in April; Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, but if the Federal Government designates May 30th as the date for observance of Memorial Day, the 30th of May; the 4th of July; Labor Day, the first Monday of September; Columbus Day, the 2nd Monday in October; Veterans' Day, November 11th; or on Christmas Day. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court may order that court be held on a legal holiday when he finds that the interests of justice and judicial economy in any particular case will be served. The public offices in county buildings may be closed to business on the holidays named in this section. When any one of the holidays named in this section falls on Sunday, the Monday following shall be observed as a holiday, with all the privileges applying to any of the days named in this section.

TITLE 5 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND SERVICES

CHAPTER 372 STATE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM

§7051. General provisions

The following provisions apply to the classified and unclassified services or to the specific services as specified in this section.

4. Employees in military service; substitutes. Whenever any employee, regularly employed in other than a temporary position for a period of at least 6 months by the State or by any department, bureau, commission or office of the State, or by the University of Maine System, community colleges, Maine School Building Authority, Maine Turnpike Authority, Finance Authority of Maine or any other state or quasi-state agency, or by any county, municipality, township or school district within the State shall in time of war, contemplated war, emergency or limited emergency, enlist, enroll, be called or ordered or be drafted into the Armed Forces of the United States or any branch or unit thereof, or shall be regularly drafted under federal manpower regulations, the employee shall not be deemed or held to have thereby resigned from or abandoned employment, nor shall be removable during the period of service. "Temporary," for the purpose of this section means employment based on a seasonal or on-call basis or employment based on a contract of less than 6 months' duration.

E. When a permanent classified employee is on extended leave, a substitute may be employed, subject to personnel rules, until return or separation of the incumbent.

§7054. Veterans' preference

In making appointments to and retention in any position on an open competitive basis in the classified service, preference shall be given to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, who have been honorably separated, or to their wives, husbands, widows, widowers, mothers or fathers as set forth in this section.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.
- B. "Honorable separation" means discharge or release from a continuous tour of active duty in any of the Armed Forces, the official records of which show the character of service or type of discharge to have been honorable.
- C. "Veteran" means a person who served on full-time active duty, exclusive of active duty for training, in the Armed Forces of the United States.

2. Examination preference. Preference points shall be added to the earned qualifying rating in examinations, provided that a passing grade is attained, of veterans applying for positions in the state service in accordance with the following, provided that they have not been previously employed in the classified service after obtaining preference points. A veteran who is receiving a disability

pension shall be entitled to preference points under this subsection, notwithstanding his previous employment in the classified service after obtaining preference points.

- A. A veteran who served on active duty in any of the Armed Forces for at least 90 days consecutively and who was honorably separated must be accorded a 5-point preference.
- B. The widow or widower of a veteran, as defined in paragraph A, who has never remarried, shall be granted a 5-point preference.
- C. A veteran who served on active duty in any of the Armed Forces for at least 90 consecutive days, at any time, was honorably separated, and who has a service-connected disability of 10% or more and receives compensation, pension or disability retirement under public laws administered by the Veterans Administration or by a branch of the Armed Forces shall be accorded a 10-point preference.
- D. The spouse of a disabled veteran as defined in paragraph C, is entitled to a 10-point preference in lieu of the veteran when his or her service-connected disability disqualifies him or her for appointment in the classified service along the general lines of his or her usual occupation.
- E. The widow or widower, who has never remarried, of a veteran who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving on active duty in any of the Armed Forces or who died as the result of service-connected disability must be accorded a 10-point preference.
- F. The natural mother or father of a deceased veteran who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving on active duty in any of the Armed Forces and who is or was married to the father or mother of the veteran on whose service he or she bases his or her claim; and who is widowed, divorced or separated; or who lives with him or her totally and permanently disabled husband or wife, either the veteran's father or mother or the husband or wife of his or her remarriage, is entitled to a 10-point preference.

3. Certification preference. Names of preference veterans shall be entered on appropriate registers as follows.

- A. The names of 5-point preference veterans shall be entered on appropriate registers in accordance with their respective augmented ratings, but they shall be entered ahead of all nonveterans having the same rating.
- B. The names of qualified 10-point preference veterans, who have a compensable service-connected disability of 10% or more, shall be placed at the top of the appropriate register in accordance with their respective augmented ratings, in nonprofessional and nonscientific classes below range 12 of the compensation plan.

4. Retention preference. In any reduction in personnel in the state service, veteran preference employees shall be retained in preference to all other competing employees in the same classification with equal seniority, status and service ratings.

In determining qualifications for examination and appointment with respect to veteran preference eligibles under this section, the director or other examining agency may waive requirements as to age, height and weight, provided that any such requirement is not essential to the performance of the duties of the position for which examination is given. The director or other examining agency, after giving due consideration to the recommendation of any accredited physician, may waive the physical requirements in the case of any veteran, provided that the veteran is, in the opinion of the director or other examining agency, physically able to discharge efficiently the duties of the position for which the examination is given.

This section applies to all examinations for original positions in the State Police, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Marine Resources, University of Maine System, community colleges, Maine School Building Authority, Maine Turnpike Authority, Finance Authority of Maine or any other state or quasi-state agency.

§7055. Reopening of examinations

Veterans with the present existence of a service-connected disability to a compensable degree, wives and husbands of disabled veterans who qualify for 10-point preference under section 7054, subsection 2, paragraph B, unmarried widows or widowers of deceased veterans who qualify for 10-point preference under section 7054, subsection 2, paragraph C, mothers and fathers, who are widowed, divorced, separated or whose wives or husbands are permanently and totally disabled, of veterans who died while in the active service of the Armed Forces during any war or who died as a result of service-connected disabilities, may file an application for and reopen an open competitive examination during the life of an eligible register resulting from a published announcement.

1. No eligible register resulting from published announcement. If no eligible register resulted from a published announcement, applicants qualified according to this section may file an application for and reopen an open competitive examination within 3 years of the closing date of the published announcement, provided that in all instances the applicant had not previously made application for the examination under conditions of the published announcement.

2. Positions held by other than permanent or probationary employees. In the event positions in the classified service are held other than by permanent or probationary employees, applicants qualified according to this section may file application for an examination to be announced and opened. Examinations shall be conducted for those applicants not later than the quarterly period succeeding that in which the application has been filed with the director.

CHAPTER 423 STATE EMPLOYEES AND TEACHERS

§17652. Optional Membership

5. Certain members of the Maine National Guard. A member of the Maine National Guard who is not governed by section 17651 and who is on active state service for more than 5 consecutive days pursuant to Title 37-B may elect to be a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program. A member of the Maine National Guard on active state service pursuant to Title 37-B who

does not elect to participate in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or is not eligible to participate in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program shall participate in the United States Social Security System. Once a member of the Maine National Guard makes an election under this subsection, that election is irrevocable with respect to all subsequent employment with the same employer when membership in the program is not mandatory. A member of the Maine National Guard on active state service pursuant to Title 37-B may participate in the tax-deferred arrangement of chapter 67.

§17655. Service in the Armed Forces

1. Membership continued. The membership of the following employees is considered to have continued during the period of the employee's service in the Armed Forces of the United States:

- A. Any employee entering a class of service in the Armed Forces of the United States approved by resolution of the board, if the employee does not withdraw accumulated contributions;
- B. Any employee who enlists in or is inducted or drafted into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- C. Any employee who enlists in or is inducted or drafted into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States while the United States Selective Service Act of 1948, Public Law 759, or any of its amendments or extensions is in effect.

2. Other military benefits. Any employee who satisfies the criteria of subsection 1, paragraph B, is entitled to all the benefits of Title 26, section 811.

§17658. Maine National Guard

1. Membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program. Any person who was an employee on December 31, 1941, and who later transferred to the Maine National Guard and was employed under the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, section 90, is considered a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program if that person makes payments to the Members' Contribution Fund in the same amounts and during the same periods as other state employees have made to that fund, either through direct contributions or pick-up contributions.

2. Amounts due. Any person described in subsection 1 may make up any amounts due to the Members' Contribution Fund.

3. Rights and benefits. Any person described in subsection 1 is entitled to all the right and benefits which he could have accrued if he had been employed by the State.

§17713. Armed forces

1. Service after becoming a member. For employees who qualify to have their membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program continued under section 17655, subsection 1, because of service in the Armed Forces of the United States, the State shall contribute to the

Members' Contribution Fund the same amount that the member would have been required to contribute, if the member had been serving the State during the period of service in the armed forces in the same capacity in which the employee was serving at the time the employee joined the armed forces. Any member whose contributions to the Members' Contribution Fund are paid by the State under this subsection, who withdraws or ceases to be a member of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program, may not withdraw any of the contributions made by the State under this subsection.

2. Service before becoming a member. A member who qualifies under section 17760 to purchase service credit at the cost set forth in section 17760, subsection 4 shall contribute to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program for the period of service in the armed forces as follows:

A. Contributions must be calculated at the percentage rate required of active members during the period of time covered by the service in the armed forces applied to the member's earnable compensation during the first year as an employee after service in the armed forces, under the following terms and conditions:

1. If 2 or more percentage rates were in effect during the period of service in the armed forces, the highest percentage rate must be used;
2. The minimum rate is 5%; and
3. Interest at a rate set by the board not to exceed regular interest by 2 or more percentage points must be paid on the unpaid balance beginning January 1, 1976, or the date of attaining 15 years of creditable service, if later, to the date payment is made.

B. (REPEALED)

C. The payment must be made to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program by a single direct payment or by annual direct payments in accordance with section 17701, subsection 4.

§17760. Service in the armed forces

Service credit for service in the United States Armed Forces is governed as follows.

1. Service after becoming a member. A member is entitled to service credit for the period of time during which the member's membership is continued under section 17655, subsection 1, under the following terms and conditions. Except as provided in paragraph B, service credit under this subsection is limited to 5 years.

A. A member who is otherwise entitled to service credit for military leave may be deprived of these credits if the member's return to membership service is delayed beyond 90 days after the member's separation from the service in the Armed Forces of the United States, under conditions other than dishonorable, if the delay is caused by an illness or disability incurred in the service in the armed forces.

B. A member may not receive service credit for military leave beyond the end of the period of first enlistment or induction or beyond 5 years from the date of original call to active duty in the armed forces, whichever is less, unless:

(1) The member's return to active duty in the armed forces or the extension of the period of service beyond 5 years is required by some mandatory provision; and

(2) The person presents proof of the return to or extension of service satisfactory to the board.

3. Service before becoming a member. A member who served as a full-time active duty member of the United States Armed Forces before becoming a member and who separated from the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable is entitled under this subsection to purchase service credit for the period of time that the member served in the armed forces by complying with the terms and conditions of this subsection and the applicable provisions of subsection 4 or 5. Service credit under this subsection is limited to 4 years.

A. A member may purchase service credit at the cost set forth in subsection 4 if the member has at least 15 years of creditable service at the time of retirement, the member makes payment as required under subsection 4 and the member:

(1) Began membership prior to January 1, 1976;

(2) Served in the United States Armed Forces during any federally recognized period of conflict; or

(3) Was awarded an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Combat Infantry Badge or any other campaign or expeditionary medal and the receipt of such a medal would allow the member to be considered "preference eligible" under 5 United States Code, Section 2108(3)(A) or 2108(3)(B). A member described in this subparagraph is entitled to purchase service credit at the cost set forth in subsection 4 only if a cost subsidy for that member's service credit has been paid to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program as provided in subsection 6.

B. A member may purchase service credit at the cost set forth in subsection 5 if the member has at least 5 years of creditable service at the time of retirement and the member makes payment as required under subsection 5.

C. For purposes of this subsection, "federally recognized period of conflict" means World War I, April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 or to March 31, 1920 if service was in Russia; World War II, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; the Korean Conflict, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955; the Vietnam War, August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 and the period beginning on February 28, 1961 and ending on May 7, 1975 in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; and the Persian Gulf War, August 7, 1990 to the date that the United States Government recognizes as the end of the Persian Gulf War.

4. Members qualified for credit at subsidized cost. A member qualified under subsection 3 to purchase service credit at the cost set forth in this subsection is entitled to service credit upon payment of back contributions under section 17713, subsection 2. Upon complete payment of back contributions, the member must be granted service credit for the period of time for which payment is made. Upon making partial payment, the member must be granted service credit on a pro rata basis in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

5. Members qualified for credit at actuarial cost. A member qualified under subsection 3 to purchase service credit at the cost set forth in this subsection is entitled to service credit if the member pays into the Members' Contribution Fund an amount that, together with regular interest on that amount, is the actuarial equivalent, at the effective date of the retirement benefit, of the portion of the retirement benefit based on the additional creditable service.

- A. Payment must be made before any retirement benefit becomes effective for that member.
- B. Payment may be made to the retirement system by a single direct payment or by annual direct payments in accordance with section 17701, subsection 4.
- C. A person who purchases service credit under this subsection and who subsequently, without inclusion of the purchased service credit and prior to retirement, becomes qualified for service credit at the cost set forth in subsection 4 is entitled to purchase the service credit under section 17713, subsection 2 and to receive a refund of the amount paid under this subsection that exceeds the cost to purchase the service credit under section 17713. A person who would have been qualified to purchase service credit under subsection 4 prior to retirement if a timely appropriation had been made under subsection 6 is entitled to a refund under this subsection even if the person becomes qualified after retirement.

6. Cost subsidy for certain award recipients; annual report. A recipient of an award described in subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (3) may purchase service credit at a subsidized cost under subsection 4 only if the retirement system has received an appropriation of the difference between the actuarial cost of that member's service credit and the amount to be paid by the member under subsection 4.

- A. The retirement system shall annually, by February 15th, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over retirement matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations matters:
 - (1) The amount, if any, in the account maintained for the purposes of this subsection;
 - (2) The cost to subsidize the purchase of service credit under this subsection for members who applied and were determined eligible in the calendar year immediately preceding the report; and
 - (3) The cost to subsidize the purchase of service credit under this subsection for members who applied and were determined eligible in each of the calendar years before the immediately

preceding calendar year for which full appropriations were not made.

- B. In response to the report described in paragraph A, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over retirement matters may report out legislation appropriating funds for all or a part of the costs set forth in the report.
- C. The retirement system shall maintain a separate account for funds appropriated for the purposes of this subsection. When the account contains sufficient funds to subsidize the purchase of service credit for all members who applied and were determined to be eligible in a particular calendar year, the retirement system shall allow that group of members to make purchases. Funds in the account must be applied to the earliest calendar year for which members remain who are eligible but have not yet been able to make purchases.

CHAPTER 425

PARTICIPATING LOCAL DISTRICTS

§18258. Service in the armed forces

1. Membership continued. The membership of the following employees is considered to have continued during the period of the employee's service in the Armed Forces of the United States:

- A. Any employee entering a class of service in the Armed Forces of the United States approved by resolution of the board, if the employee does not withdraw accumulated contributions;
- B. Any employee who enlists in or is inducted or drafted into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- C. Any employee who enlists in or is inducted or drafted into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States while the United States Selective Service Act of 1948, Public Law 759, or any of its amendments or extensions is in effect.

2. Other military benefits. Any employee who satisfies the criteria of subsection 1, paragraph B, is entitled to all benefits of Title 26, section 811.

§18311. Armed forces

1. Service after becoming a member. For employees who qualify to have their membership in the Participating Local District Retirement Program continued under section 18258, subsection 1, because of service in the Armed Forces of the United States, the participating local district shall contribute to the Members' Contribution Fund the same amount that the member would have been required to contribute if the member had been serving the participating local district during the period of service in the armed forces in the same capacity in which the employee was serving at the time he joined the armed forces. Any member whose contributions to the Members' Contribution Fund are paid by the participating local district under this subsection, who withdraws or ceases to be a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program, may not withdraw any of the contributions made by the participating local district under this subsection.

2. Service before becoming a member. A member who qualifies under section 18360, subsection 2, shall contribute to the Participating Local Retirement Program for the period after service in the armed forces under the following terms and conditions.

A. If the member qualifies under section 18360, subsection 2, contributions are calculated at the percentage rate required of active members during the period of time covered by the service in the armed forces applied to the member's earnable compensation during the first year as an employee subsequent to service in the armed forces under the following terms and conditions:

- (1) If 2 or more percentage rates were in effect during the period of service in the armed forces, the highest percentage rate is used;
- (2) The minimum rate is 5%; and
- (3) Interest at a rate set by the board not to exceed regular interest by 2 or more percentage points is paid on the unpaid balance beginning January 1, 1976, or the date of attaining 15 years of creditable service, if later, to the date payment is made.

C. The payment must be made to the Participating Local District Retirement Program by a single direct payment or annual direct payments made in accordance with section 18301, subsection 4.

§18360. Service in the armed forces

Service credit for service in the Armed Forces of the United States is governed as follows. Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (1), service credit under this section is limited to 5 years.

1. Service after becoming a member. A member is entitled to service credit for the period of time during which the member's membership is continued under section 18258, subsection 1, under the following terms and conditions.

A. A member who is otherwise entitled to service credit for military leave may not be deprived of these credits if the member's return to membership service is delayed beyond 90 days after the member's separation from the service in the Armed Forces of the United States, under conditions other than dishonorable, if the delay is caused by an illness or disability incurred in the service in the armed forces.

B. A member may not receive service credit for military leave beyond the end of the period of first enlistment or induction or beyond 5 years from the date of original call to active duty in the armed forces, whichever is less, unless:

- (1) The member's return to active duty in the armed forces or the extension of the period of service beyond 5 years is required by some mandatory provision; and
- (2) The member presents proof of the return to or extension of service satisfactory to the board.

2. Service before becoming a member. If a participating local district elects to provide service credit for service in the Armed Forces of the United States under this subsection, a member who served as a full-time active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States before becoming a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program is entitled to service credit for the period of time he served in the armed forces, under the following terms and conditions.

- A. Except as provided in paragraph I, on the date of retirement, the member must have at least 15 years of creditable service.
- B. Repealed
- C. The member must have separated from the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable.
- D. Except as provided in paragraph E, the member must have begun membership before January 1, 1976.
- E. Except as provided in paragraph I, a member who served in the armed forces during any federally recognized period of conflict, is entitled to service credit under this subsection. For purposes of this paragraph, "federally recognized period of conflict" means World War I, April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 or to March 31, 1920 if service was in Russia; World War II, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; the Korean Conflict, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955; the Vietnam War, August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 and the period beginning on February 28, 1961 and ending on May 7, 1975 in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; and the Persian Gulf War, August 7, 1990 to the date that the United States Government recognizes as the end of the Persian Gulf War.
- F. Except for members qualifying under paragraph E, this subsection:
 - (1) Applies to all persons, active or retired, but, for those already retired, the effective date of any adjustment shall be not earlier than the date on which the time or credit is certified to the retirement system; and
 - (2) Does not apply to any member who begins membership on or after January 1, 1976.
- G. Upon complete payment of the back contributions under section 18311, the member shall be granted service credit for the period of time for which the contributions have been made. Upon making partial payment of the back contributions under section 18311, the member shall be granted service credit on a pro rata basis in accordance with rules adopted by the board.
- H. A participating local district may elect, with regard to special plans under section 18453, subsections 2 to 9, that service credits under this subsection apply only to additional retirement benefits under section 18453, subsections 10 and 11, and that the service credits not apply to age or service requirements of retirement. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect in any way the rights of public employees to collectively bargain for terms and conditions of

employment.

- I. A member who fails to meet one or more of the terms and conditions required under paragraphs A, D and E may purchase service credit as provided in this paragraph. The member must have at least 5 years of creditable service and, before any retirement benefit becomes effective for that member, must pay into the Members' Contribution Fund, by a single direct payment or annual direct payments to the Participating Local District Retirement Program, an amount that, together with regular interest on that amount, is the actuarial equivalent, at the effective date of the retirement benefit, of the portion of retirement based on the additional creditable service. Annual direct payments must be made in accordance with section 17701, subsection 4. Any member who purchases service credit under this paragraph who subsequently, without inclusion of the purchased service credit and prior to retirement, meets the terms and conditions of paragraphs A, D and E is entitled to purchase the service credit under section 18311, subsection 2 and to receive a refund of the amount paid under this paragraph that exceeds the cost to purchase the service credit under section 18311.

TITLE 10 COMMERCE AND TRADE

CHAPTER 110 FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

§962. Purpose

There is a statewide need to provide enlarged opportunities for gainful employment to the people of the State and to insure the preservation and betterment of the economy and the general health, safety and welfare of the State and its inhabitants; to provide a more healthy environment through the restoration of purity to the air, the water or the earth of the State which are fouled with, among other things, industrial and other waste materials and pollutants, and to insure the preservation and betterment of the living standards and health of its inhabitants; to stimulate a larger flow of private investment funds from banks, investment institutions, insurance companies and other financial institutions, including pension and retirement funds, to help finance planning, development, acquisition, construction, improvement, expansion and placing in operation of industrial, manufacturing, recreational, fishing, agricultural, business and natural resource enterprises and eligible projects of the State and its political subdivisions; and to increase the access of smaller business, veterans and students pursuing postsecondary education to financing at reasonable terms and rates.

In order to fulfill these purposes and to make the best use of the State's limited resources, the Finance Authority of Maine shall consider the state economic development strategy and the policies and activities of the Department of Economic and Community Development in implementing its powers, duties and responsibilities.

The Finance Authority of Maine, as established by this chapter and authorized by Title 5, section 12004-F, subsection 1, to fulfill these purposes is, in addition to its other powers, authorized to:

4. Small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses. Encourage the making of loans to small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses;

§963-A. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

51. Veteran. "Veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces and was not dishonorably discharged.

51-A. Wartime veteran. "Wartime veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces during any federally recognized period of conflict who is certified to be a wartime veteran by the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services and was not dishonorably discharged.

§1026-A. Insurance of loans

1. Insurance. The authority may make commitments and agreements to insure loan payments. Any loan insurance shall be subject to the following:

A. Loan insurance may not exceed:

(1) One hundred percent of the principal amount of the loan made to any borrower including related entities for any of the following types of loans or projects:

(a) Loans to veterans and wartime veterans, except that the authority may not at any time have, in the aggregate amount of the principal and interest outstanding, loan insurance obligations pursuant to this division exceeding \$5,000,000;

B. The loan must be serviced as required by the authority;

D. The authority must determine that there is a reasonable prospect that the loan will be repaid;

E. The loan must be in compliance with the credit policy of the authority;

F. Loan insurance payments may not exceed the lesser of:

(1) Principal, outstanding accrued interest and collection costs approved by the authority; and

(2) The original insured amount; and

G. Terms other than those specified in paragraphs A to F as may be required by law or by rule of the authority.

The authority may provide insurance for related entities of up to \$7,000,000.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this chapter, the authority may provide special loan insurance benefits to veterans and wartime veterans determined by rule of the authority developed in consultation with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

For all loan insurance liability in excess of \$1,000,000 and in other instances when the authority determines it is appropriate, the authority shall obtain a written assessment from the Department of Environmental Protection of the environmental conditions known by the department to exist at a project location so that the authority fully considers environmental risks when making its decisions. Environmental conditions posing risks that must be considered include, but are not limited to, licensing obligations, existing or historic regulatory noncompliance and site clean-up responsibilities.

2. Loan eligibility. The authority may insure loan payments under this subchapter subject to the following requirements:

- A. The loan must be secured by a lien on a security interest in eligible collateral, subject to such encumbrances, including, without limitation, coordinate first liens, as are acceptable to the authority;
- B. The eligible collateral must be owned, leased, used or held by or otherwise benefit an eligible enterprise;
- C. The documents must contain provisions satisfactory to the authority pertaining to the payment of principal and interest and contain covenants and other provisions satisfactory to the authority pertaining to taxes, assessments, repairs, maintenance, insurance, default, remedies, transfer or alteration of eligible collateral, change in management or control of the business and such other matters as the authority may determine; and
- D. Other conditions prescribed by law or by the authority must have been complied with.

4. Ineligible for loan insurance. The authority may not provide loan insurance for the following:

- A. Investment real estate;
- B. Religious organizations;
- C. Fraternal organizations;
- D. Residential housing, other than congregate or group housing; or
- E. Consumer loans.

5. Limitations on loan insurance. The authority may establish a maximum insurance liability for

particular sectors by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

TITLE 12 CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 220 BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS

§1819. Charge user fees

With the consent of the Governor and the commissioner, the bureau may charge reasonable fees for services, accommodations and use.

Unless otherwise provided by law, and after payment of any existing lease for Crescent Beach State Park, all user fees derived from use of state parks, historic sites and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and other payments for services received under this section accrue to the General Fund, except that all revenues resulting from an increase in fees after July 1, 1990 in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway accrue to a dedicated revenue account to be used for capital improvements in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. When fees may be more efficiently collected through 3rd-party contracts, a percentage of the fee may be retained by the contractor for services as agreed upon by the bureau.

Any disabled veteran displaying on the veteran's motor vehicle special designating plates or placards issued in accordance with Title 29-A, section 523, subsections 1 and 2 is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

§1819-A. Day use passes for certain veterans

Notwithstanding section 1819, the commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the issuance of a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to each veteran determined by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to meet the criteria established in Title 37-B, section 8. The pass entitles the holder to admission free of charge to all state parks and historic sites.

§1819-B. Day use passes for active military personnel

Notwithstanding section 1819, the commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the issuance of a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to each active duty military member determined by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to meet the criteria established in Title 37-B, section 7. The pass entitles the holder, and the holder's spouse and children when accompanied by the holder, to admission free of charge to all state parks and historic sites.

CHAPTER 615

GENERAL LICENSE PROVISIONS

§6310-A. Appeal of license denial; Armed Forces or Coast Guard service

1. **Appeal of license denial.** A person who is denied a license for a limited entry fishery because that person does not meet the eligibility requirements due to service in the United States Armed Forces or the United States Coast Guard precluding that person from participating in the fishery may appeal to the commissioner under this section for a review of that license denial. A license may be granted by the commissioner under this section only if the person:
 - A. Documents that the person harvested the relevant species while in possession of a fishing license for that species within one year prior to entering the service;
 - B. Has not served for more than 10 consecutive years since the most recent year in which the person held a license;
 - C. Has not been dishonorably discharged from service; and
 - D. Requests an appeal under this section within one year of discharge from service.

Notwithstanding paragraphs B and D, a license may be granted to a person pursuant to this section who is actively serving in the United States Armed Forces or the United States Coast Guard for a period of more than 10 consecutive years as long as the person pays a license fee for each year beyond those 10 years.

2. **Limited entry fishery.** For purposes of this section, “limited entry fishery” means a fishery in which licenses are limited to individuals who have held a license in the previous year or a fishery that is otherwise restricted by a limited entry system.
3. **Appeals process.** A person appealing a license denial under this section must request the appeal in writing. The commissioner shall hold a hearing on the appeal if a hearing is requested within 10 days of the initial request for appeal. If a hearing is requested, it must be held within 30 days of the request unless a longer period is mutually agreed to in writing, and it must be conducted in the Augusta area.

A hearing held under this subsection is informal. At the hearing, the appellant may present any evidence concerning the criteria listed in subsection 1 that might justify issuing a license to the person, and the commissioner may request any additional information the commissioner considers necessary.
4. **Issuance of an appeal.** Issuance of a license on appeal is at the discretion of the commissioner, except that a license may not be issued unless the criteria in subsection 1 are met. Decisions of the commissioner must be in writing.

§6311. Active duty military members

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. “Active duty for a period of more than 30 days” has the same meaning as in 10 United States Code, Section 101(d)(2).
- B. “Limited entry fishery” means a fishery in which licenses are limited to individuals who have held a license in the previous year or a fishery that is otherwise restricted by a limited entry system.

2. Partial waiver of lobster apprentice requirements. Notwithstanding Title 37-B, section 390-A or any other provision of this Part, the commissioner shall waive a portion of the number of days and hours of practical lobster fishing experience required under the apprentice program established pursuant to section 6422, subsection 1 for a person who is a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces if:

- A. The person was under an order to active duty for a period of more than 30 days;
- B. The period of active duty conflicts with the requirements of the apprentice program; and
- C. The person was licensed pursuant to section 6421, subsection 1, paragraphs D and E.

This waiver does not apply to the 2-year minimum required under section 6422, subsection 2.

3. Waiver of licensing requirements. Notwithstanding Title 37-B, section 390-A or any other provision of this Part, the commissioner shall waive the licensing eligibility requirements applicable to a limited entry fishery for a person who is a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and was under an order to active duty for a period of more than 30 days. This subsection does not apply to a person who did not possess a license for that limited entry fishery at the time of or in the calendar year prior to that person’s being called to active duty. The waiver must be available for a period of up to 10 consecutive years of service, with no license fees being assessed during that time. For years consecutively served beyond 10 years, licensing eligibility requirements, other than licensing fees, must be waived.

4. Limited application. This section applies only if the member's service is in support of:

- A. An operational mission for which members of the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces have been ordered to active duty without volunteering for that mission;
- B. Forces activated during a period of war declared by the United States Congress or a period of national emergency declared by the President of the United States or the United States Congress;
or

C. A response to a precipitating event for which the member was drafted or enlisted during a period of an active draft.

§6311-A. Student licenses after military service

An individual who is eligible for a student license and crab fishing license under section 6421, subsection 1, paragraph E either when enlisted in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard or when ordered to active duty in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces may, upon that individual's return from service, have that individual's eligibility regarding age extended by the number of years that individual was not able to purchase a student license due to this service, for a period of up to 10 years. In order to extend eligibility under this section, that individual must initiate the license application within one year of that individual's return from service.

CHAPTER 913 GENERAL LICENSE AND PERMIT PROVISIONS

§10853. Complimentary and reduced-rate licenses

4. Disabled veteran. A resident disabled veteran or a nonresident disabled veteran who is a resident of New Hampshire or Vermont may obtain upon application, at no cost, all hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, including permits, stamps and other permission needed to hunt, trap and fish, and, upon meeting the qualifications as established in section 12853, subsection 4, a guide license. The commissioner shall issue all fishing, trapping and hunting licenses and permits requested under this subsection if the commissioner determines the applicant is a disabled veteran and is not otherwise ineligible to hold that permit or license. For the purposes of this subsection, "disabled veteran" means a person who:

- A. Is a resident as defined in section 10001, subsection 53 or is a resident of New Hampshire or Vermont;
- B. Is a veteran as defined in Title 37-B, section 505, subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (3); and
- C. Has a service-connected disability evaluated at 50% or more.

Each application must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant meets the requirements of this subsection. An applicant for a license or permit under this section is subject to the provisions of this Part, including, but not limited to, a lottery or drawing system for issuing a particular license or permit. A permit or license issued under this subsection remains valid for the life of the permit or license holder, as long as the permit or license holder continues to satisfy the residency requirement in section 10001, subsection 53 and the permit or license is not revoked or suspended. For a resident of New Hampshire or Vermont to be eligible under this subsection, that resident's state must have a reciprocal agreement with this State.

5. Holders of Congressional Medal of Honor. Upon application, the Governor may grant 2-year complimentary hunting and fishing licenses to holders of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

6. Members of Armed Forces domiciled in State. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the State may be issued fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for an amount equal to the administrative costs associated with issuing a license as determined by the department. Administrative costs do not include agent fees. To qualify, the member of the Armed Forces of the United States must show proof that that member's home of record, as recorded in that person's service records, is Maine. That person may purchase all other licenses or permits at resident fees. The license is valid during the year of issue. That person's spouse and children may purchase hunting and fishing licenses at reduced rates. The reduced fees are as follows:

- A. Twenty dollars, plus the issuing fee for a combination fishing and hunting license;
- B. Ten dollars, plus the issuing fee for a hunting license;
- C. Ten dollars, plus the issuing fee for a fishing license;
- D. Ten dollars, plus the issuing fee for a trapping license.

CHAPTER 915

HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

§11105. Safety course

2. Hunter safety course exemption for certain members of armed forces domiciled in State. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the United States and home on leave is exempt from hunter safety course requirements under subsection 1 if that member shows proof at the time of application for the license that that member's home state of record, as recorded in that person's military service records, is Maine. A person who no longer meets the conditions for an exemption under this subsection must satisfy the requirements of subsection 1.

§11106. Eligibility for archery hunting license

3. Archery hunter education course exemption for members of armed forces domiciled in State. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the United States and home on leave is exempt from archery hunter education course requirements under subsection 2 if that member shows proof at the time of application for the license that that member's home state of record, as recorded in that person's military service records, is Maine. A person who no longer meets the conditions for an exemption under this subsection must satisfy the requirements of subsection 2.

§11106-A. Eligibility for crossbow hunting license

4. Crossbow hunter education course exemption for members of armed forces domiciled in State. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the United States and home on leave is exempt from crossbow hunter education course requirements under subsection 3 if that member shows proof at the time of application for the license that that member's home state of record, as recorded in that person's military service records, is Maine. A person who no longer meets the requirements of this subsection must satisfy the conditions for exemption under subsection 3.

CHAPTER 939 ATV'S

§13155. Registration

11. Member of the United States Armed Forces permanently stationed in State. A person is eligible to register an ATV owned by that person at the resident fee if that person is:

- A. Serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and is permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base in the State; or
- B. The spouse or child of a person under paragraph A if the spouse or child permanently resides with that person.

A member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in the State or the spouse or child of that member who desires to register an ATV in this State shall present certification from the commander of the member's military or naval post, station or base, or from the commander's designated agent, that the member is permanently stationed at that post station or base.

TITLE 13 CORPORATIONS

CHAPTER 83 CEMETERY CORPORATIONS

§1101. Maintenance and repairs; municipality

1. Ancient burying grounds. In any ancient burying ground, as referenced in Title 30-A, section 5723, the municipality in which that burying ground is located, in collaboration with veterans' organizations, cemetery associations, civic and fraternal organizations and other interested persons, shall keep in good condition all graves, headstones, monuments and markers designating the burial place of Revolutionary soldiers and sailors and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States. To the best of its ability given the location and accessibility of the ancient burying ground, the municipality, in collaboration with veterans' organizations, cemetery associations, civic and fraternal organizations and other interested persons, shall keep the grass, weeds and brush suitably cut and

trimmed on those graves from May 1st to September 30th of each year. A municipality may designate a caretaker to whom it delegates for a specified period of time the municipality's responsibilities regarding an ancient burying ground.

1-A. Grave sites of persons who are not designated as veterans in ancient burying grounds. To the best of its ability given the location and accessibility of the ancient burying ground, the municipality in which an ancient burying ground is located may keep the grass, weeds and brush suitably cut and trimmed from May 1st to September 30th of each year on all graves, headstones, monuments and markers in the ancient burying ground not designating the burial place of Revolutionary soldiers and sailors and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States. A municipality may designate a caretaker to whom it delegates for a specified period of time the municipality's functions regarding an ancient burying ground.

2. Grave sites of veterans in public burying grounds. A municipality, cemetery corporation or cemetery association owning and operating a public burying ground shall, in collaboration with veterans' organizations, cemetery associations, civic and fraternal organizations and other interested persons, keep the grave, headstone, monument or marker designating the burial place of any veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States in that public burying ground in good condition and repair from May 1st to September 30th of each year.

If a municipality does not adopt standards, the municipality, cemetery corporation or cemetery association shall apply the following standards of good condition and repair:

- D. Ensure that the grass at the grave site is suitably cut and trimmed;
- E. Keep a flat grave marker free of grass and debris; and
- F. Keep the burial place free of fallen trees, branches, vines and weeds.

§1101-A. Definition

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meaning.

1. Ancient burying ground. "Ancient burying ground" means a private cemetery established before 1880.

4. Public burying ground. "Public burying ground" means a burying ground or cemetery in which any person may be buried without regard to religious or other affiliation and includes a cemetery owned and operated by a municipality, a cemetery corporation or a cemetery association.

§1101-B. Ancient burying grounds

1. Access to ancient burying grounds on privately owned land. The owner of an ancient burying ground shall provide a municipality or its caretaker designated pursuant to section 1101 access necessary to perform the duties pursuant to section 1101 and Title 30-A, section 2901. Any

unreasonable denial to provide municipalities access may result in the owner being held responsible for any fines, court costs and attorney's fees incurred by municipalities in legally obtaining access or for failing to meet the requirements of section 1101.

2. Maintenance by landowner. A person who owns a parcel of land that contains an ancient burying ground and chooses to deny access to the municipality or its caretaker designated pursuant to section 1101 shall assume the duties as described in section 1101 and Title 30-A, section 2901, subsection 1. Maintenance of ancient burying ground by the owner exempts the municipality from performing the duties as described in section 1101. A municipality or its caretaker designated pursuant to section 1101 to carry out the municipality's functions regarding an ancient burying ground must have access to any ancient burying ground within the municipality in order to determine if the ancient burying ground is being maintained in good condition and repair. If an ancient burying ground or a veteran's grave within an ancient burying ground is not maintained in good condition and repair, the municipality may take over the care or appoint a caretaker to whom it delegates the municipality's functions regarding an ancient burying ground.

§1101-C. Notice of responsibility

When a municipality fails without good reason to maintain the good condition and repair of a grave, headstone, monument or marker or fails to keep the grass suitably cut and trimmed on any such grave pursuant to section 1101 and at least one of the municipal officers has had 14 days' actual notice or knowledge of the neglected condition, a penalty of not more than \$100 may be assessed on the municipality.

§1101-D. Unorganized townships

If an ancient burying ground or a public burying ground as described in section 1101 is located in an unorganized township, the county in which the township is located is subject to sections 1101, 1101-B and 1101-C.

§1101-E. Graves on land owned by Federal Government

Veterans' graves as described in section 1101 that are located on a site that was owned by the Federal Government as of January 1, 2000 are not subject to the requirements of section 1101.

§1102. Neglect

If such officers, treasurer or committee neglect so to apply such fines, they each forfeit the amount thereof, in a civil action, to any person suing therefor.

TITLE 14 COURT PROCEDURE – CIVIL

CHAPTER 507 ATTACHMENTS

§4422. Exempt property

The following property is exempt from attachment and execution, except to the extent that it has been fraudulently conveyed by the debtor.

13. Disability benefits; pensions. The debtor's right to receive the following:

B. A veterans' benefit;

TITLE 18-A PROBATE CODE

ARTICLE V: PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY AND THEIR PROPERTY

§5-104. Delegation of powers by parent or guardian

- (a) A parent or guardian of a minor or incapacitated person, by a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding 12 months, any of that parent's or guardian's powers regarding care, custody or property of the minor child or ward, except the power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward. A delegation by a court-appointed guardian becomes effective only when the power of attorney is filed with the court.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), unless otherwise stated in the power of attorney, if the parent or guardian is a member of the National Guard or Reserves of the United States Armed Forces under an order to active duty for a period of more than 30 days, a power of attorney that would otherwise expire is automatically extended until 30 days after the parent or guardian is no longer under those active duty orders or until an order of the court so provides.

This subsection applies only if the parent or guardian's service is in support of:

- (1) An operational mission for which members of the reserve components have been ordered to active duty without their consent; or
- (2) Forces activated during a period of war declared by Congress or a period of national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

§5-207. Court appointment of guardian of minor; procedure

- (a) Notice of the time and place of hearing of a petition for the appointment of a guardian of a minor to be given by the petitioner in the manner prescribed by court rule under section 1-401 to:

- (1) The minor, if he is 14 or more years of age;
 - (2) The person who has had the principal care and custody of the minor during the 60 days preceding the date of the petition; and
 - (3) Any living parent of the minor.
- (b) Upon hearing, if the court finds that a qualified person makes appointment, venue is proper, the required notices have been given, the requirements of section 5-204 have been met, and the welfare and best interest of the minor will be served by the requested appointment, it shall make the appointment. In other cases the court may dismiss the proceedings, or make any other disposition of the matter that will best serve the interest of the minor.
- (c) If necessary, the court may appoint a temporary guardian, with the status of an ordinary guardian of a minor, but the authority of a temporary guardian may not last longer than 6 months, except as provided in subsection (c-1).

Notice of hearing on the petition for the appointment of a temporary guardian must be served as provided under subsection (a), except that the notice must be given at least 5 days before the hearing, and notice need not be given to any person whose address and present whereabouts are unknown and can not be ascertained by due diligence. Upon a showing of good cause, the court may waive service of the notice of hearing on any person, other than the minor, if the minor is at least 14 years of age.

- (c-1) If one of the parents of a minor is a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces under an order to active duty for a period of more than 30 days, a temporary guardianship that would otherwise expire is automatically extended until 30 days after the parent is no longer under those active duty orders or until an order of the court so provides. This subsection applies only if the parent's service is in support of:
- (1) An operational mission for which members of the reserve components have been ordered to active duty without their consent; or
 - (2) Forces activated during a period of war declared by Congress or a period of national emergency declared by the President or Congress.
- (d) If, at any time in the proceeding, the court determines that the interests of the minor are or may be inadequately represented, it may appoint an attorney to represent the minor, giving consideration to the preference of the minor if the minor is fourteen years of age or older.

TITLE 19-A DOMESTIC RELATIONS

CHAPTER 65

SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

§2604. Garnishment of military retirement pay

Spouses and ex-spouses of retired military personnel may garnish by order of the court up to 50% of the disposable retired or retainer pay to satisfy child support orders and spousal support orders. This section applies regardless of the date of the child support order or spousal support order or the residence of the spouse or ex-spouse. For purposes of this section, "disposable retired or retainer pay" means the total monthly retired or retainer pay to which a retired military person is entitled, other than the retired pay of a member retired for disability under 10 United States Code, Chapter 61, less amounts excluded by 10 United States Code, Chapter 71, Section 1408.

TITLE 20-A EDUCATION

CHAPTER 401 GENERAL PROVISIONS

§10010. Current members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces

If a current member of the United States Armed Forces or a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who has been honorably discharged is enrolled in a program of education at any campus of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy, that member or veteran is eligible for in-state tuition rates, regardless of the member's or veteran's state of residence.

CHAPTER 207-A INSTRUCTION

§4722. High School Diploma Standards

A secondary school shall provide a comprehensive program of instruction leading to a high school diploma as set out in section 4721. The commissioner shall develop rules for the transition between the requirement of this section and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209.

6. Exception for certain veterans. A secondary school may award a high school diploma to a person who meets all of the following requirements. A diploma may be awarded posthumously.

A. The person or the person's family must apply to the secondary school for the diploma.

B. The person must either:

(1) Have attended the secondary school or attended a secondary school in the geographic area now served by the secondary school; or

(2) Currently reside in the geographic area served by the secondary school.

C. The person must have left secondary school:

(1) Before or during World War II to serve in the Armed Forces during World War II;

(2) Before or during the Korean Conflict to serve in the Armed Forces in the Korean Conflict;

(3) Before or during the Vietnam War to serve in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War era. For purposes of this subparagraph, “Vietnam War era” means the period beginning February 28, 1961 and ending May 7, 1975.

(4) To serve in the Armed Forces during the period of wartime or peacetime after a period of wartime described in subparagraph (1), (2) or 3.

D. The person did not graduate or receive a high school diploma because of service in the Armed Forces.

E. The person received an honorable discharge or a certificate of honorable service from the Armed Forces.

For the purposes of this subsection, “Armed Forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard; and the Merchant Marines only for the period of December 7, 1941 to August 16, 1945.

§4722-A. Proficiency-based diploma standards

2. Method of gaining and demonstrating proficiency. Students must be allowed to gain proficiency through multiple pathways, as described in section 4073, and must be allowed to demonstrate proficiency by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher-designed or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performance, exhibitions, projects and community service.

E. A person may be awarded a high school diploma, including posthumous award, if the person or a family member of the person applies to a secondary school and;

(1) The person:

(a) Attended a secondary school in the geographic area now served by the secondary school from which a diploma is requested; or

- (b) Resides at the time of application for a diploma in the geographic area served by the secondary school from which a diploma is requested.
- (2) The person did not graduate or receive a diploma from a secondary school because the person left secondary school to serve in the Armed Forces and served during the following periods:
 - (a) World War II, from December 7, 1941 to August 16, 1945;
 - (b) The Korean Conflict;
 - (c) The Vietnam War era, from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; or
 - (d) The period of wartime or peacetime after a period of wartime described in division (a), (b) or (c); and
- (3) The person received an honorable discharge or a certificate of honorable service from the Armed Forces.

For the purposes of this paragraph, “Armed Forces” means the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Merchant Marines.

CHAPTER 213 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

§5201. Age

The following provisions apply to enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools.

3. Exceptions. The following are exceptions to this section.

- A. War veterans who have not completed high school before their 18th birthday may enroll in the public schools in the school administrative units where they reside until they graduate or until the end of the school year in which they reach the age of 25.

CHAPTER 401 GENERAL PROVISIONS

§10010 Veterans

Regardless of the state of residence, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States using the benefits under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 must receive a waiver from the tuition that remains after the application of all payments from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, including payments under the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program in the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, and the application of other

nonrepayable resources for which the veteran may be eligible. The amount of the tuition waiver received by a veteran under this section may not exceed an amount that lowers the tuition to less than the in-state tuition charged by the institution. This section applies to all veterans enrolled at any campus of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or Maine Maritime Academy in an undergraduate program of education. A nonresident student entitled to a waiver under this section must be considered eligible for in-state tuition.

CHAPTER 507 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

§13603. Military leave of absence of teachers.

Teachers who are members of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces are entitled to take a military leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay or time when engaged in military training not to exceed 17 calendar days in any calendar year provided that the teachers have made a reasonable effort to perform their military training during the period when school is not in session.

TITLE 22 HEALTH & WELFARE

CHAPTER 709 DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES

§2900. Cremated remains of a veteran

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. “National Cemetery” means a cemetery under the control of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration.

B. “Veteran” means a person who served in and was honorably discharged from active duty:

- (1) In the Armed Forces of the United States;
- (2) In the Army or Air Force National Guard in a full-time status; or
- (3) As a reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

C. “Veterans’ service organization” means an association, corporation or other entity that qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(19) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as a tax-exempt organization that has been organized for the benefit of veterans and

recognized or chartered by the United States Congress or a nonprofit corporation, association or entity that specifically assists in facilitating the identification and interment of unclaimed remains of veterans.

2. Cremated remains of veterans. A funeral director or other authorized person who has held in the funeral director's or other authorized person's possession the cremated remains of a veteran for more than one year from the date of cremation may determine pursuant to the provisions of this section if the cremated remains are those of a veteran and, if the funeral director or other authorized person determines that the cremated remains are those of a veteran, the funeral director or other authorized person may dispose of the remains pursuant to this section.

3. Sharing information. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a funeral director or other authorized person under subsection 2 may share information concerning cremated remains in the funeral director's or other authorized person's possession with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a veterans' service organization or a national cemetery to determine whether the cremated remains are those of a veteran.

4. Disposition of veterans' remains. If a funeral director or other authorized person determines that cremated remains in the funeral director's or other authorized person's possession are those of a veteran pursuant to this section and the funeral director or other authorized person has not received instructions as to the final disposition of the cremated remains from the person lawfully in control of the final disposition of the cremated remains, the funeral director or other authorized person may dispose of the cremated remains or relinquish possession of the cremated remains to a veterans' service organization pursuant to section 2843 and this subsection. The cremated remains of a veteran disposed of or relinquished pursuant to this subsection must be finally disposed of in a national cemetery or other government-owned or government-operated veterans' cemetery or in a cemetery or with a cemetery corporation under Title 13, chapter 83 where veterans' graves are memorialized by a veterans' marker or that has a veterans' section.

5. Release from liability. A funeral director, other authorized person or veterans' service organization is not liable and is released from any legal obligation other than a legal obligation imposed under this section regarding the release or sharing of information or the disposing of or relinquishing of the remains of a veteran, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

6. Reimbursement. The estate of a veteran whose remains are the subject of disposition under this section is responsible for reimbursing a funeral director, other authorized person or veterans' service organization for all reasonable expenses incurred in activities conducted under this section.

7. Record. A funeral director or other authorized person shall maintain a record identifying a veterans' service organization that receives a veteran's remains from the funeral director or other authorized person under this section and of the site designated for final disposition of the veteran's remains relinquished or disposed of by the funeral director or other authorized person under this section.

8. Duty of funeral director or other authorized person. This section does not require a funeral director or other authorized person to determine the veteran status of cremated remains in the funeral director's or other authorized person's possession or to relinquish or dispose of a veteran's remains in the funeral director's or other authorized person's possession pursuant to this section if the funeral director or other authorized person has a reasonable belief or is instructed by the person in lawful control of the disposition of the veteran's remains that the veteran did not desire a funeral, burial-related services or ceremonies recognizing the veteran as a veteran.

CHAPTER 1689 VETERANS ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

§9001. Definition

For purposes of this chapter, "veterans' adult day care health care program" or "program" means a therapeutically oriented outpatient day program that provides health maintenance and rehabilitative services to participants eligible for services under Title 37-B, chapter 11; that provides individualized care delivered by an interdisciplinary health care team and support staff, with an emphasis on helping participants and their caregivers to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to manage care requirements in the program; and that is principally targeted for complex medical or functional needs of veterans and other eligible participants. "Veterans' adult day health care program" does not include a program for adults provided by a licensed residential facility, a day activity program licensed by the department or an adult day care program as defined in section 8601.

§9002. Rules

The department shall adopt rules for veterans' adult day health care programs, which must include, but may not be limited to, rules pertaining to the health and safety of the eligible participants and staff, the quality of the program provided, the administration of medication and licensing procedures. Reimbursement to the provider of veterans' adult day health care must be at the rate of 65% of the MaineCare reimbursement for nursing facility care. The department shall use as guidance for the rules those established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 52.

§9003. License

1. License required. Beginning October 1, 2011, a person may not operate a veterans' adult day health care program in this State without having obtained a license from the department.

2. Fee. The department shall by rule establish a reasonable fee for a program license.

§9004. Fire safety

1. Inspection required. A license may not be issued by the department for a veterans' adult day health care program until the department has received from the Commissioner of Public Safety a written statement signed by one of the officials designated under Title 25, section 2360, 2391 or 2392

to make fire safety inspections indicating that the program's facility is in compliance with the applicable fire safety provisions in subsection 2 and Title 25, section 2452.

2. Life Safety Code. The written statement under subsection 1 must be furnished annually to the department and must indicate that the veterans' adult day health care program's facility is in compliance with the requirements of the National Fire Protection Associations Life Safety Code that are specified in:

A. The provisions relating to family day care homes, if the veterans' adult day health care program has no more than 6 adults per session;

B. The provisions relating to group day care homes, if the veterans' adult day health care program has at least 7 but no more than 12 adults per session; or

C. The provisions relating to child day care, if the veterans' adult day health care program has 13 or more adults per session.

3. Fees. The department shall establish and pay reasonable fees to the Department of Public Safety or a municipal official for each inspection under this section. Fees collected by the Department of Public Safety under this subsection must be deposited into a special revenue account to defray expenses in carrying out this section. Any balance of fees may not lapse but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purposes in the following fiscal years.

§9005. Prohibited employment.

1. Criminal history record information. A veteran's adult day health care program shall obtain criminal history record information about applicants for positions as unlicensed assistive personnel as defined in section 1717, subsection 1, paragraph D and may not hire an individual who:

A. Has worked as a certified nursing assistant and has been the subject of a notation by the state survey agency for a substantiated complaint of abuse, neglect or misappropriation of property in a health care setting that was entered on the Maine Registry of Certified Nursing Assistants;

B. Has been convicted in a court of law of a crime involving abuse, neglect or misappropriation of property in a health care setting; or

C. Has a prior criminal conviction within the last 10 years of:

(1) A crime for which incarceration of 3 years or more may be imposed under the laws of the state in which the conviction occurred; or

(2) A crime for which incarceration of less than 3 years may be imposed under the laws of the state in which the conviction occurred involving sexual misconduct or involving abuse, neglect or exploitation in a setting other than a health care setting.

**TITLE 26
LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

**CHAPTER 7
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

§701-A. Application of subchapter

This subchapter applies to employment by all private and public employers, including the State and its political subdivisions, except with respect to service in the National Guard and as otherwise specifically provided.

§811. Preservation of status.

1. Intent. The intent of this subchapter is to minimize the disruption to the lives of persons performing service in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces as well as to their employers, their fellow employees and their communities by providing for the prompt reemployment of these persons upon their satisfactory completion of military service and to prohibit discrimination against these persons because of their military service.

2. Military leave of absence. Any member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces is entitled to military leave of absence from a position with any public or private employer, in response to state or federal military orders. The military member shall:

- A. Give prior reasonable notice, if reasonable under the military circumstances, to the member's employer of the anticipated absence for military duty; and
- B. If the employer so requests, obtain a confirmation from the Adjutant General or applicable reserve component headquarters, of the anticipated military duty and satisfactory completion of the member's military duties.

3. Reinstatement. Any person who is in compliance with subsection 2 and is still qualified to perform the duties of such position must be reinstated at the same pay, seniority, benefits, and status, and receive any other incidences of advantages of employment as if the person had remained continuously employed. The period of absence must be construed as an absence with leave, and within the discretion of the employer, the leave may be with pay. The employer may not require any person returning from a period of military service to report back to work:

- A. For periods of military service of 3 days or less, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 24 hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence;
- B. For periods of military service of more than 3 days but not more than 15 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 48 hours after a period allowing for the

safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence;

- C. For periods of military service of more than 15 days but not more than 30 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 72 hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence;
- D. For periods of military service of more than 30 days but not more than 180 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 14 days after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence; or
- E. For periods of military service of more than 180 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 90 days after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence.

4. Disability. A person who is in compliance with subsection 2 but who has disability incurred in or aggravated during the military service for which that person was absent and who, after reasonable efforts by the employer to accommodate the disability, is not qualified due to that disability to be employed in the position of employment in which the member would have been employed if the member had remained continuously employed must be reinstated without loss of seniority, benefits, status and any other incidences of advantages of employment:

- A. To any other position that is equivalent in pay, seniority, benefits, status and any other incidences of advantages of employment, the duties of which the person is qualified to perform or would become qualified to perform with reasonable efforts by the employer; or
- B. To a position that is nearest approximation to a position referred to in paragraph A in terms of pay, seniority, benefits, status and any other incidences or advantages of employment consistent with circumstances of the person's case.

5. Employer defined. As used in this section, "employer" means any person, institution, organization or other entity that pays salary or wages for work performed or that has control over employment opportunities, including a person, institution, organization or other entity to whom the employer has delegated the performance of employment-related responsibilities; the Federal Government; the State and subdivision or agency of the State; and any successor in interest to a person, institution, organization, or other entity referred to in this subsection.

§812. Right to benefits retained.

1. Benefits accrual. Absence for military training as described in section 811 does not affect the employee's right to receive normal vacation, sick leave, bonus advancement and other advantages of employment normally to be anticipated in the employee's particular position.

2. Extension of insurance benefits. Insurance benefits must be extended according to this subsection.

- A. A public or private employer shall continue, at no additional cost to the member, the existing health, dental and life insurance benefits for a least the first 30 days of the military duty for any member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces if the member takes a military leave of absence from a position with that employer, other than a temporary position, in response to state or federal military orders.
- B. After the expiration of the first 30 days of military leave, the member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces has the option of continuing the health, dental and life insurance benefits in effect at the member's own expense by paying the insurance premium at the same rates as paid by the employer.

§813. Remedies.

1. Action authorized. If any employer fails to comply with any of the provisions of sections 811 and 812, the Attorney General, Judge Advocates of the Maine National Guard or employee may bring a civil action for damages for such noncompliance or apply to the courts for such equitable relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

2. Award of fees; costs. In any civil action under section 811 or 812, the court in its discretion may award reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

§814. Family military leave.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. "Deployed for military service" or "deployment" means active military duty with the state military forces, as defined in Title 37-B, section 102, or the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, whether pursuant to orders of the Governor or the President of the United States, when the duty assignment is in a combat theater or in an area where armed conflict is taking place.
- B. "Employee" means any person who may be permitted, required or directed by an employer in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit to engage in any employment and who has been employed by the same employer for at least 12 months and has been employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the employee's family military leave.
- C. "Employee benefits" means all benefits, other than salary and wages, provided or made available to employees by an employer and includes group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance and pensions, regardless of whether benefits are provided by a policy or practice of an employer.
- D. "Employer" means:

- (1) Any person, partnership, corporation, association or other business entity; and
- (2) The State, a county, a municipality or any political subdivision.

E. “Family military leave” means leave requested by an employee who is the spouse, domestic partner or parent of a person who is a resident of the State and is deployed for military service for a period lasting longer than 180 days with the State or the United States pursuant to the orders of the Governor or the President of the United States.

2. Family military leave requirement. Subject to the requirements of subsection 3, an employer that employs 50 or more employees shall provide each eligible employee up to 15 days of family military leave per deployment, if requested by the employee. Family military leave under the subsection may be taken only during one or more of the following time frames:

- A. The 15 days immediately prior to deployment;
- B. Deployment, if the military member is granted leave; or
- C. The 15 days immediately following the period of deployment.

Family military leave granted under this section may consist of unpaid leave.

3. Notice Requirements. An employee taking family military leave under this section is subject to the following.

- A. The employee must give at least 14 days notice of the intended date upon which the family military leave will commence if leave will consist of 5 or more consecutive work days.
- B. An employee taking family military leave for fewer than 5 consecutive work days must give the employer advance notice as is practicable.
- C. The employee shall consult with the employer to attempt to schedule the leave so as to not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer.

4. Certification. An employer may require certification from the proper military authority to verify an employee’s eligibility for the family military leave requested pursuant to this section.

5. Restoration to position. An employee who exercises the right to family military leave under this section is entitled, upon expiration of the leave, to be restored by the employer to the position held by the employee when the leave commenced or to a position with equivalent seniority status, employee benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. This subsection does not apply if the employer proves that the employee was not restored as provided in this subsection because of conditions unrelated to the employee’s exercise of rights under this section.

6. Employee benefits protection. An employer shall make it possible for an employee to continue employee benefits as the employee’s expense during any family military leave taken under this

section. The employer and employee may negotiate for the employer to maintain employee benefits at the employer's expense for the duration of the leave.

- A. Taking family military leave under this section does not result in the loss of any employee benefit accrued before the date on which the leave commenced.
- B. Nothing in this section may be construed to affect an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan that provides greater leave rights to employees than the rights provided under this section.
- C. The family military leave rights provided under this section may not be diminished by any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan.
- D. Nothing in this plan may be construed to affect or diminish the contract rights or seniority status of any other employee of any employer covered under this section.

7. Prohibited acts. An employer may not:

- A. Interfere with, restrain or deny the exercise or the attempt to exercise any right provided under this section;
- B. Discharge, fine, suspend, expel, discipline or in any other manner discriminate against any employee who exercises any right provided under this session: or
- C. Discharge, fine, suspend, expel, discipline or in any other manner discriminate against any employee for opposing any practice made unlawful by this section.

8. Enforcement. Any employee may bring a civil action in Superior Court to enforce this section. The court may enjoin any act or practice that violates or may violate this section and may order any other equitable relief that is necessary and appropriate to redress the violation or to enforce this section.

TITLE 29-A MOTOR VEHICLES

CHAPTER 5 VEHICLE REGISTRATION

§456-D We Support Our Troops registration plates

The Secretary of State shall issue registration plates, referred to in this section as "We Support Our Troops plates", to support Maine troops and their families in accordance with this section and section 468, except that the provisions of section 468, subsection 7 do not apply.

1. We Support Our Troops plates. The Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, the registration fee required by section 501 and the administrative fee and contribution provided for in subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of We Support Our Troops plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates. These plates must bear identification numbers and letters.

2. Administrative fee and contribution to special programs. A person may contribute funds for the purposes of providing financial assistance to members of the Maine National Guard and their families or residents of the State who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families for emergencies and other special needs by applying for the We Support Our Troops plates and submitting, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required under section 501, a sum of \$20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

- A. Ten dollars to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund as established in Title 37-B, section 158;
- B. Nine dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and
- C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469.

3. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee required under section 501, the annual renewal contribution for We Support Our Troops plates is \$15, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

- A. Ten dollars to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund as established in Title 37-B, section 158;
- B. Four dollars to the Highway Fund for administrative and production costs; and
- C. One dollar to the Specialty License Plate Fund established under section 469.

§515-B. Purple Heart medal recipients; special motorcycle registration plates

The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and a Purple Heart motorcycle registration plate, to be used in lieu of a regular registration plate, to a person who is a Purple Heart medal recipient. Notwithstanding section 468, the Secretary of State may issue fewer than 2,000 of the plates authorized by this section, and this plate does not require a sponsor.

1. Application. An application for Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Secretary of State shall verify the documentation presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

2. Surviving spouse. The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient issued motorcycle registration plates in accordance with this subsection may retain and display the Purple Heart plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the Purple Heart plates on a motorcycle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the Purple Heart plates, but may not use them on a motorcycle.

3. Design. The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Purple Heart motorcycle registration plate. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates that are also vanity plates. Purple Heart vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453.

4. Recognition plates. A Purple Heart recipient or the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who does not operate a motorcycle or register a motorcycle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of special Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates may apply to the Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that award. The Secretary of State shall design and identify these special single plates for recognition purposes only. Special single plates may not be attached to a motorcycle. Only one plate may be issued to each recipient and a one-time fee of \$5 charged.

The Secretary of State shall begin issuing Purple Heart motorcycle registration plates in accordance with this section no later than November 1, 2000.

§517-A. Registration exemption for vehicles owned by veterans groups and used exclusively for ceremonial activities

Vehicles owned by an organized veterans group and used exclusively for ceremonial activities, including parades, are exempt from registration requirements and registration fees. These vehicles must be inspected pursuant to chapter 15, subchapter I. For purposes of this section, "organized veterans group" means the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars or an organized league of veterans of the United States Marine Corps.

§523. Certain veterans

1. Amputee or blind veterans. On application to the Secretary of State for registration of any motor vehicle of any amputee or blind veteran who has received an automobile from the United States

Government under authority of 38 United States Code, Sections 3901, et seq. or any amputee or blind veteran receiving compensation from the Veterans Administration or any branch of the United States Armed Forces for service-connected disability who has a specially designed motor vehicle, that veteran is entitled to have that automobile duly registered and a registration certificate delivered to the veteran without the requirement of the payment of any fee.

Any veteran who has lost both legs or the use of both legs and who has registered a motor vehicle without the payment of a fee as provided in this section upon certification by the Veterans Administration or appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces must be issued special designating plates. Those designating plates must be issued by the Secretary of State and must bear the words "Disabled Veteran."

2. Disabled veterans; special free license plates. The Secretary of State on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and set of special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds to any 100% disabled veteran when that application is accompanied by certification from the United States Veterans Administration or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as to the veteran's permanent disability and receipt of 100% service-connected benefits. A disability placard is issued in addition to the disabled veteran registration plate at no fee.

These special designating plates must bear the words "Disabled Veteran," which indicate that the vehicle is owned by a disabled veteran.

2-A. Disabled veterans motorcycle license plates. The Secretary of State shall issue a registration certificate and special designating plate for a motorcycle to be used in lieu of a registration plate issued in subsection 2 to any 100% disabled veteran if an applicant submits the following together with an application:

- A. Evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482; and
- B. Certification from the United States Veterans Administration or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as to the veteran's permanent disability and receipt of 100% service-connected benefits.

Notwithstanding section 468, the Secretary of State may issue fewer than 2,000 of the plates authorized by this subsection, and this plate does not require a sponsor. These special designating plates must bear the word "Veteran."

3. Special veterans registration plates. The Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482 and the registration fee required by section 501, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of special veterans registration plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates for a vehicle with a registered gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds to any person who has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged or to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve. If a person who qualifies for a special veterans registration plate under

this subsection is the primary driver of 3 vehicles, the Secretary of State may issue in accordance with this section a set of special veterans registration plates for each vehicle.

Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Veterans Administration or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service and length of service.

The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special registration plates is retained by the Secretary of State to maintain and support this program.

The surviving spouse of a special veteran plate recipient issued plates in accordance with this subsection may retain and display the special veteran plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the special veteran plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the special veteran plates, but may not use them on a motor vehicle.

The Secretary of State may issue a special disability registration plate for veterans in accordance with section 521, subsections 1, 5, 7 and 9. The special disability registration plate for veterans must bear the International Symbol of Access.

The Secretary of State may issue a set of special veterans registration plates when the qualifying veteran is the primary driver of a company-owned vehicle if:

- A. The company is owned solely by a veteran who qualifies for a veteran plate under this section;
- B. The vehicle is leased by a veteran who qualifies for the veteran plate under this subsection; or
- C. The vehicle is leased by the employer of a veteran who qualifies for the veteran plate and the employer has assigned the vehicle exclusively to the veteran. The employer must attest in writing that the veteran will have exclusive use of the vehicle and agrees to the display of the special veteran plate.

3-A. Motorcycle plates; veterans. In addition to any plate issued pursuant to subsection 3, the Secretary of State, on application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, and the registration fee required by section 515, subsection 1, shall issue a registration certificate and a special veterans registration plate for up to 3 designated motorcycles owned or controlled by a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces and who has been honorably discharged or to a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years and continues to serve.

Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, or certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or

the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service and length of service.

The Secretary of State shall recall a special veterans registration plate of a recipient who has been less than honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

All surplus revenue collected for issuance of the special veterans registration plates is retained by the Secretary of State to maintain and support this program.

Upon request the Secretary of State shall issue special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle that are also vanity plates. These plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453. Vanity plates issued under this subsection may not duplicate vanity plates issued in another class of plate.

The surviving spouse of a recipient of a special veterans registration plate issued in accordance with this subsection may retain and display the plate as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the plate or plates, but may retain them. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the plate or plates, but may not use.

The Secretary of State may not issue special commemorative decals under subsection 5 or 6 for use on special veterans registration plates for a motorcycle.

4. Veterans vanity plates. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue veterans registration plates that are also vanity plates. Veterans registration vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453.

5. Special commemorative decals for medals, badges or ribbons awarded. The Secretary of State may issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces, was honorably discharged and was awarded a medal, badge or ribbon described in paragraphs A to AA when that person's application is accompanied by the appropriate military certification verifying that the medal, badge or ribbon was awarded to the applicant. One set of commemorative decals may be issued for each set of special veterans registration plates issued under this section. One set of 2 commemorative decals must be displayed on the front and back plates. The fee for a set of commemorative decals may not exceed \$5. Special commemorative decals may be issued to applicants awarded the following medals, badges or ribbons:

- A. Distinguished Service Cross;
- B. Navy Cross;
- C. Air Force Cross;
- D. Silver Star;
- E. Distinguished Flying Cross;
- F. Bronze Star;
- G. Soldier's Medal;
- H. Navy or Marine Corps Medal;

- I. Airman's Medal;
- J. Coast Guard Medal;
- K. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal;
- L. European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal;
- M. Korean Service Medal;
- N. Vietnam Service Medal;
- O. Southwest Asia Service Medal;
- P. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal;
- Q. Kosovo Service Medal;
- R. Korea Defense Service Medal;
- S. Global War on Terrorism Medal;
- T. Iraq Campaign Medal;
- U. Afghanistan Campaign Medal;
- V. United States Army Combat Infantry Badge;
- W. United States Army Combat Medic Badge;
- X. United States Army Combat Action Badge;
- Y. United States Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon;
- Z. United States Air Force Combat Action Medal; and
- AA. National Emergency Service Medal

6. Special commemorative decals for branches of armed forces. The Secretary of State may issue special commemorative decals for use with special veterans registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces and was honorably discharged when that person's application is accompanied by the appropriate military certification verifying the applicant's service. One set of commemorative decals may be issued for each set of special veterans registration plates issued under this section. One set of 2 commemorative decals must be displayed on the front and back plate. The fee for a set of commemorative decals may not exceed \$5.

Special commemorative decals may be issued to applicants who served in the:

- A. United States Army;
- B. United States Air Force;
- C. United States Navy;
- D. United States Marine Corps; or
- E. United States Coast Guard.

7. Moratorium on special commemorative decals for medals, badges or ribbons awarded.

During the period beginning October 1, 2009 and ending October 1, 2014, the Secretary of State may not issue any special commemorative decals not authorized by subsection 5, paragraphs A to AA or subsection 6, paragraphs A to E for use with special veterans registration plates.

§524. Other special veterans registration plates

1. United States Medal of Honor recipients; special license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue at no fee, a registration certificate and set of special designating plates, to be used in lieu of

regular registration plates, to any Maine resident who has been awarded the Medal of Honor by the Congress of the United States when the application is accompanied by a copy of the military orders awarding the Medal of Honor.

These special designating plates must be of a design as determined by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may issue Medal of Honor plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds.

2. Former prisoners of war; special license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue a registration certificate and set of special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates to any civilian citizen of the United States who was interned as a prisoner of war and to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces and who was a prisoner of war at any time during tenure of service, or the surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war who is deceased, when that application is accompanied by a copy of the appropriate military form or other official form issued by the Federal Government certifying that the person is a former prisoner of war. This special license plate is issued specifically to former prisoners of war and their spouses and the privilege of using the special plate is transferable only on the death of the former prisoner of war to the former prisoner's spouse. Upon the death of the former prisoner of war, the surviving spouse may retain and display the special license plate. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the special license plate on a motor vehicle, but may retain it. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the special license plate, but not use it on a motor vehicle.

These special designating plates must be of a design as determined by the Secretary of State that is unique and not duplicated by any other design.

The Secretary of State may issue prisoner of war plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds.

3. Pearl Harbor survivors; special license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue, at no fee, a registration certificate and set of special designating plates to be used in lieu of regular registration plates to any person who served in the United States Armed Forces and who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii during the attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, when that application is accompanied by appropriate military certification verifying the applicant's service at Pearl Harbor during the attack. This special license plate is issued specifically to Pearl Harbor survivors and the privilege of using the special plate is not transferable.

These special designating plates must be of a design as determined by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may issue Pearl Harbor survivor plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds.

4. Purple Heart medal recipients; special license plates. The Secretary of State, on application and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall issue, at no fee, a

registration certificate and a set of Purple Heart registration plates, to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to a person who is a Purple Heart medal recipient.

An application for Purple Heart plates must be accompanied by proof that the applicant has been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Secretary of State shall verify the documentation presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

The Secretary of State may issue Purple Heart plates for display only on an automobile or truck registered for not more than 10,000 pounds. A Purple Heart recipient may be issued Purple Heart plates for no more than 2 vehicles.

The surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient issued plates in accordance with this subsection may retain and use the Purple Heart plates as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may not use the Purple Heart plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the Purple Heart plates, but may not use them on a motor vehicle.

The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Purple Heart plate. Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue Purple Heart plates that are also vanity plates. Purple Heart vanity plates are issued in accordance with this section and section 453. The annual service fee for vanity plates required in section 453 is credited to the Highway Fund.

A Purple Heart recipient or the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient, who does not operate a motor vehicle or register a motor vehicle and who otherwise qualifies for the issuance of special Purple Heart registration plates may apply to the Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that award.

The Secretary of State shall design and identify these single plates for recognition purposes only. Single Purple Heart plates may not be attached to a motor vehicle. Only one plate may be issued to each recipient and a one-time fee of \$5 charged.

CHAPTER 11 DRIVER'S LICENSE

§1409. Amputee and disabled veteran

A license fee is not required from:

1. Federal motor vehicle. An amputee veteran who has received a motor vehicle from the United States Government under authority of P.L. 663, 79th Congress, as amended, or P.L. 187, 82nd Congress, as amended;

2. Service-connected disability. An amputee veteran receiving compensation for service-connected disability from the Veterans Administration or the United States Armed Forces and who has a specially designed motor vehicle; or

3. One hundred percent permanent service-connected disability. A veteran with a permanent disability who receives 100% service-connected benefits.

TITLE 30-A MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES

CHAPTER 123 MUNICIPALS OFFICIALS

§2652. Fee schedule

Except as provided in Title 11 and this section, the clerk shall charge for services according to the following fee schedule:

1. Recording; general. Recording the following:

I. Honorable discharge or release papers of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, \$4;

(1) A copy of such a document attested by the clerk is prima facie evidence of its existence and validity;

CHAPTER 131 HISTORY AND OBSERVANCES

§2901. Decoration of veterans' graves on Memorial Day;

1. Decoration of veterans' graves. Each municipality, as directed by its municipal officers, annually shall decorate on the day Memorial Day is observed the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America with an American flag and appropriate flag holders.

3. No effect on individuals' right to decorate. This section does not in any way affect the right of any friend or relative of a deceased veteran to decorate the grave.

4. Bell ringing on Veterans Day. Each municipality shall, unless it will cause the municipality to incur an additional expense, cause any public bell or clarion within its possession or control to be rung at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and the municipal officers of each municipality shall request that any other bell or clarion within the municipality be rung voluntarily at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and shall take such steps as are necessary to properly coordinate public and volunteer events.

5. Unorganized townships. If veterans' graves as described in this section are located in an unorganized township, the county in which that unorganized township is located is subject to the provisions in this section.

6. Graves on land owned by Federal Government. Veterans' graves located on a site that was owned by the Federal Government as of January 1, 2000 are not subject to the requirements of this section.

CHAPTER 201 HOUSING AUTHORITY

§4703. Declaration of necessity

1. Housing conditions. It is declared that:

G. The construction, rehabilitation or improvement of dwelling accommodations would make housing available for veterans who are unable to provide themselves with decent housing on the basis of the benefits made available to them through certain government guarantees of loans to veterans for the purchase of residential property;

§4743. Housing rentals and tenant admissions; veteran preference

In the operation or management of housing projects, an authority shall at all times observe the following duties with respect to rentals and tenant admissions.

3. Preferences. In the selection of tenants for housing projects, as among low-income families which are eligible applicants for occupancy in dwellings of given sizes and at specified rents, a housing authority shall extend the following preferences:

A. First, to families which are to be displaced by any low-rent housing project or by any public slum-clearance or redevelopment project initiated after January 1, 1947, or which were so displaced within 3 years before applying to the public housing agency for admission to any low-rent housing. Among these families:

- (1) First preference shall be given to families of disabled veterans whose disabilities have been determined by the United States Veterans Administration to be service-connected;
- (2) Second preference shall be given to families of deceased veterans and servicemen whose deaths have been determined by the United States Veterans Administration to be service-connected;
- (3) Third preference shall be given to families of other veterans and servicemen;

B. Second, to families of other veterans and servicemen. Among these families:

- (1) First preference shall be given to families of disabled veterans whose disabilities have been determined by the United States Veterans Administration to be service-connected; and

- (2) Second preference shall be given to families of deceased veterans and servicemen whose death have been determined by the United States Veterans Administration to be service-connected.

C. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- (1) The term "veteran" means a person who has served in the active military or naval service of the United States at any time on or after April 6, 1917 and before November 11, 1918, or at any time on or after September 16, 1940 and before July 26, 1947, or at any time on or after June 27, 1950 and before February 1, 1955, or at any time on or after August 5, 1964 and before May 7, 1975, or at any time on or after August 7, 1990 and before April 11, 1991, and who has been discharged or released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- (2) The term "serviceman" means a person in the active military or naval service of the United States who has served in that service on or after April 6, 1917 and before November 11, 1918, or at any time on or after September 16, 1940 and before July 26, 1947, or at any time on or after June 27, 1950 and before February 1, 1955, or at any time on or after August 5, 1964 and before May 7, 1975, or at any time on or after August 7, 1990 and before April 11, 1991.

Notwithstanding any provisions of this section, an authority may agree to conditions as to tenant eligibility or preference required by the Federal Government under federal law in any contract for financial assistance with the authority.

Nothing in this section or section 4742 may be construed as limiting the power of an authority to vest in an obligee the right, in the event of a default by the authority, to take possession of a project or cause the appointment of a receiver of the project, free from all the restrictions imposed by this section or section 4742.

CHAPTER 223 MUNICIPAL FINANCES

§5723. Public works

A municipality may raise or appropriate money to:

3. Cemeteries. Provide for public cemeteries; maintain private cemeteries established before 1880; care for graves of veterans and maintain fences around cemeteries in which veterans are buried;

§5725. Health and welfare

A municipality may raise or appropriate money to:

10. Veteran rehabilitation. Provide for a local program with or without state coordination for rehabilitating veterans honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States;

§5727. Celebrations and commemorations

A municipality may raise or appropriate money to:

2. Holidays. Observe Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other day set apart for commemoration;

5. Memorials for veterans. Provide for monuments and memorials, and real estate suitable for their erection, to honor the veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who sacrificed their lives in defense of their country.

TITLE 36 TAXATION

CHAPTER 105 CITIES AND TOWNS Subchapter 4: EXEMPTIONS

§653. Estates of veterans

The following estates of veterans are exempt from taxation:

1. Estates of veterans and servicemen.

A. Repealed

B. Repealed

C. The estates up to the just value of \$6,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, of veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States:

- (1) During any federally recognized war period, including the Korean Campaign, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the periods from August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 and December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, or who were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, when they have reached the age of 62 years or when they are receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States Government for total disability, service connected or nonservice-connected, as a veteran. A veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days, any part of which occurred after February 27, 1961 and before May 8, 1975 unless the veteran died in service or was discharged for a service-connected disability after that date. "Persian Gulf War" means service on active duty on or after August 2, 1990 and before or on the date that the United States Government recognizes as

the end of that war period; or

- (2) Who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty and are receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States Government for total, service-connected disability.

The exemptions provided in this paragraph apply to the property of that veteran, including property held in joint tenancy with that veteran's spouse or held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that veteran.

- C-1. The estates up to the just value of \$7,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence of veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any federally recognized war period during or before World War I and who would be eligible for an exemption under paragraph C.

The exemption provided in this paragraph is in lieu of any exemption under paragraph C to which the veteran may be eligible and applies to the property of that veteran, including property held in joint tenancy with that veteran's spouse or held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that veteran.

- D. The estates up to the just value of \$6,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, of the unremarried widow or widower or minor child of any veteran who would be entitled to the exemption if living, or who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government as the widow or widower or minor child of a veteran.

The estates up to the just value of \$6,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, of the parent of a deceased veteran who is 62 years of age or older and is an unremarried widow or widower who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the service-connected death of that parent's child.

The exemptions provided in this paragraph apply to the property of an unremarried widow or widower or minor child or parent of a deceased veteran, including property held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that unremarried widow or widower or minor child or parent of a deceased veteran.

- D-1. The estates up to the just value of \$50,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, for specially adapted housing units, of veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any federally recognized war period, including the Korean Campaign, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the periods from August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 and December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, or who were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and who are paraplegic veterans within the meaning of the 38 United States Code, Chapter 21, Section 2101, and who received a grant from the United States Government for any such housing, or of the unremarried widows or widowers of those veterans. A veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days, any part of which occurred after February 27, 1961 and before May 8, 1975 unless the veteran died in service or was discharged

for a service-connected disability after that date. "Persian Gulf War" means service on active duty on or after August 2, 1990 and before or on the date that the United States Government recognizes as the end of that war period. The exemption provided in this paragraph applies to the property of the veteran including property held in joint tenancy with a spouse or held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that veteran.

- D-2. The estates up to the just value of \$7,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence of the unremarried widow or widower or minor child of any veteran who would be entitled to an exemption under paragraph C-1, if living, or who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government as the widow or widower or minor child of a veteran, and who is the unremarried widow or widower or minor child of a veteran who served during any federally recognized war period during or before World War I.

The exemption provided in this paragraph is in lieu of any exemption under paragraph D to which the person may be eligible and applies to the property of that person, including property held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that person.

- D-3. The estates up to the just value of \$7,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence of the parent of a deceased veteran who is 62 years of age or older and is an unremarried widow or widower who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the service-connected death of that parent's child and who is receiving the pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the service-connected death of that parent's child during any federally recognized war period during or before World War I.

The exemption provided in this paragraph is in lieu of any exemption under paragraph D to which the person may be eligible and applies to the property of that person, including property held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that person.

- E. The word "veteran" as used in this subsection means any person, male or female, who was in active service in the Armed Forces of the United States and who, if discharged, retired or separated from the Armed Forces, was discharged, retired or separated under other than dishonorable conditions.
- F. An exemption may not be granted to any person under this subsection unless the person is a resident of this State.
- G. Any person who desires to secure exemption under this subsection shall make written application and file written proof of entitlement on or before the first day of April, in the year in which the exemption is first requested, with the assessors of the place in which the person resides. Notwithstanding Title 1, chapter 13, an application and proof of entitlement filed pursuant to this paragraph is confidential and may not be made available for public inspection. The application and proof of entitlement must be made available to the State Tax Assessor upon request. The assessors shall thereafter grant the exemption to any person who is so qualified and remains a resident of that place or until they are notified of reason or desire for discontinuance.

- H. A municipality granting exemptions under this subsection is entitled to reimbursement from the State of 90% of that portion of the property tax revenue lost as a result of the exemptions that exceed 3% of the total municipal property tax levy, upon submission of proof in a form satisfactory to the State Tax Assessor. Exemptions granted under this subsection that are reimbursable pursuant to section 661 are not eligible for reimbursement under this paragraph.
- I. No property conveyed to any person for the purpose of obtaining exemption from taxation under this subsection may be so exempt, except property conveyed between husband and wife, and the obtaining of exemption by means of fraudulent conveyance shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than 2 times the amount of the taxes evaded by the fraudulent conveyance, whichever amount is greater.
- J. No person may be entitled to property tax exemption under more than one paragraph of this subsection.
- K. In determining the local assessed value of the exemption, the assessor shall multiply the amount of the exemption by the ratio of current just value upon which the assessment is based as furnished in the assessor's annual return to the State Tax Assessor.

2. Cooperative housing corporations. A cooperative housing corporation is entitled to an exemption to be applied against the valuation of property of the corporation that is occupied by qualifying shareholders. An application for exemption must include a list of all qualifying shareholders and any information required by the municipality to verify eligibility of qualifying shareholders and the applicable exemption amount. The application must be updated annually to reflect changes in eligibility. The exemption is equal to the total amount calculated under subsection 1 as if the qualifying shareholders were owners of the property. A cooperative housing corporation that receives an exemption pursuant to this section shall apportion the property tax reduction resulting from the exemption among the qualifying shareholders according to the proportion of the total exemption that each qualifying shareholder would be entitled to if the qualifying shareholder were the owner of property. Any supplemental assessment resulting from disqualification for exemption must be applied in the same manner against the qualifying shareholders for whom the disqualification applies. For the purposes of this subsection, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. "Cooperative housing corporation" means an entity organized for the purpose of owning residential real estate in which residents own shares that entitle them to inhabit a designated space within a residential dwelling.
- B. "Qualifying shareholder" means a person who is a shareholder in a cooperative housing corporation who would qualify for an exemption under subsection 1 if the person were the owner of the property.

CHAPTER 105
CITIES AND TOWNS
Subchapter 4-B: MAINE RESIDENT HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

§681 Definitions

1. Applicant. "Applicant" means an individual who has applied for a homestead property tax exemption pursuant to this subchapter.

1-A. Cooperative housing corporation. "Cooperative housing corporation" means an entity organized for the purpose of owning residential real estate in which residents own shares that entitle the shareholder to inhabit a certain space within a residential dwelling.

1-B. Cooperative property. "Cooperative property" means the real property, including mobile and manufactured homes, owned by a cooperative housing corporation for the primary purpose of residential use.

2. Homestead. "Homestead" means any residential property, including cooperative property, in this State assessed as real property owned by an applicant or held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of the applicant and occupied by the applicant as the applicant's permanent residence or owned by a cooperative housing corporation and occupied as a permanent residence by a resident who is a qualifying shareholder. A "homestead" does not include any real property used solely for commercial purposes.

3. Permanent residence. "Permanent residence" means that place where an individual has a true, fixed and permanent home and principal establishment to which the individual, whenever absent, has the intention of returning. An individual may have only one permanent residence at a time and, once a permanent residence is established, that residence is presumed to continue until circumstances indicate otherwise.

4. Permanent resident. "Permanent resident" means an individual who has established a permanent residence. For purposes of this subchapter, a person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who is permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base in this State is deemed to be a permanent resident. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in the State who applies for an exemption shall present certification from the commander of the member's post, station or base or from the commander's designated agent that the member is permanently stationed at that post, station or base. For purposes of this subsection, "a person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States" does not include a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

5. Qualifying shareholder. "Qualifying shareholder" means a person who is a:

- A. Shareholder in a cooperative housing corporation that owns a homestead in this State;
- B. Shareholder for the preceding 12 months in the cooperative housing corporation specified in paragraph A; and
- C. Permanent resident of this State.

§684 Forms; Applications

1. Generally. The bureau shall furnish to the assessor of each municipality a sufficient number of printed forms to be filed by applicants for an exemption under this subchapter and shall determine the content of the forms. A municipality shall provide to its inhabitants reasonable notice of the availability of application forms. An individual claiming an exemption under this subchapter for the first time shall file the application form with the assessor or the assessor's representative. The application must be filed on or before April 1st of the year on which the taxes are based.

2. False filing. An individual who knowingly gives false information for the purpose of claiming a homestead exemption under this subchapter commits a Class E crime. Except for a person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who is permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base in the State, an individual who claims to be a permanent resident of this State under this subchapter who also claims to be a permanent resident of another state for the tax year for which an application for a homestead exemption is made commits a Class E crime.

3. Continuation of eligibility. The assessor shall evaluate annually the ongoing eligibility of property for which a homestead exemption has been approved under this subchapter. The evaluation must be based on the status of the property on April 1st of the year on which the homestead exemption is based. The evaluation must include, but is not limited to, a review of whether the ownership of the property has changed in any manner that would disqualify the property for an exemption under this subchapter or whether the owner has ceased to use the property as a homestead. Unless the assessor determines that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter, the owner is entitled to receive the exemption without having to reapply. If the assessor determines that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter, the assessor shall notify the owner as provided in section 686 that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter.

4. Owner notification. An owner of property receiving an exemption under this subchapter shall notify the assessor promptly when the ownership or use of the property changes so as to change the qualification of the property for an exemption under this subchapter.

CHAPTER 105 CITIES AND TOWNS Subchapter 5: POWERS AND DUTIES OF ASSESSORS

§707. Exempt property; inventory required

Assessors shall include in their inventory, but not in the tax list, every 5 years beginning in 1963:

2. Property of veterans. The value of the real property of veterans, their widows, widowers and minor children not taxed;

CHAPTER 105 CITIES AND TOWNS Subchapter 8: ABATEMENT

§841. Abatement procedure

4. Veteran's widow or widower or minor child. Notwithstanding failure to comply with section 706 or section 1181, the assessors, on written application within one year from the date of commitment, may make such abatement as they think proper in the case of the unremarried widow or widower or the minor child of a veteran, if the widow, widower or child would be entitled to an exemption under section 653, subsection 1, paragraph D, except for her or his failure to make application and file proof within the time set by section 653, subsection 1, paragraph G, provided that the veteran died during the 12-month period preceding the April 1st for which the tax was committed.

CHAPTER 111 AIRCRAFT, HOUSE TRAILERS AND MOTOR VEHICLES

§1483. Exemptions

The following are exempt from the excise tax:

12. Certain veterans. Automobiles owned by veterans who are granted free registration of those vehicles by the Secretary of State under Title 29-A, section 523, subsection 1.

16. Active military stationed in Maine. Vehicles owned, including those jointly owned with a spouse, by a person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who is permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base in the State. Joint ownership of the vehicle must be indicated in the vehicle's title documentation. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in the state, or that member's spouse, who desires to register that member's vehicle in this State pursuant to this subsection shall present certification from the commander of the member's post, station or base, or from the commander's designated agent, that the member is permanently stationed at that post, station or base. For purposes of this subsection, "a person on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States" does not include a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

CHAPTER 211 GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1760. Exemptions

Subject to the provisions of section 1760-C, no tax on sales, storage or use may be collected upon or in connection with:

22. Automobiles to amputee veterans. Sales of automobiles to veterans who are granted free registration of such vehicles by the Secretary of State under Title 29-A, section 523, subsection 1. Certificates exemption or refunds of taxes paid must be granted under such rules or regulations as the State Tax Assessor may prescribe.

51. Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Associations. Sales to incorporated nonprofit Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Associations;

69. Vietnam veteran registries. Sales to incorporated, nonprofit organizations whose sole purpose is to create, maintain and update a registry of Vietnam veterans;

85. Certain sales by auxiliary organization of American Legion. Sales of meals and related items and services by a nonprofit auxiliary organization of the American Legion in connection with a fund-raising event sponsored by the auxiliary organization if the meals and related items and services are provided in a room that is separate from the lounge facilities, if any, of the American Legion and patrons are prohibited from taking alcoholic beverages from the lounge facilities to the separate room where the meals and related items and services are provided.

CHAPTER 803 IMPOSITION OF TAX ON INDIVIDUALS

§5116. Tax waiver for combat casualty

A taxpayer whose income tax liability is forgiven pursuant to Section 692 of the Code for any tax year is entitled to a waiver of state income tax for the same tax year, including any related interest and penalty, in the same manner in which the federal tax liability is forgiven. In the case of a joint return, the waiver is equal to the proportion of the tax on the joint return equal to the ratio of the deceased taxpayer's tax liability computed as if both taxpayers were filing separately to the sum of the deceased taxpayer's tax liability and the taxpayer's spouse's tax liability computed as if filing separately.

CHAPTER 831 PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION

§5289. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund voluntary checkoff

1. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund. When filing a return, a taxpayer entitled to a refund under this Part may designate that a portion of that refund be paid into the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund established in Title 37-B, section 504, subsection 6. A taxpayer who is not entitled to a refund under this Part may contribute to the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund by including with that taxpayer's return sufficient funds to make the contribution. The contribution may not be less than \$5. Each individual income tax return form must contain a designation in substantially the following form: "Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund: () \$5, () \$10, () \$25 or () Other \$...."

2. Contributions credited to Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund. The State Tax Assessor shall determine annually the total amount contributed pursuant to subsection 1. Prior to the beginning of the next year, the State Tax Assessor shall deduct the cost of administering the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund checkoff and report the remainder to the Treasurer of State, who shall forward that amount to the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

**TITLE 37-B
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS – ORGANIZATION**

§1. Purpose

The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, as previously established and referred to in this Title as the "department," shall coordinate and improve the discharge of the State Government's responsibility for military affairs, veterans' services and emergency management matters.

§2. Composition

The department consists of the following

- 1. Military Bureau.** The Military Bureau;
- 2. Maine Emergency Management Agency.** The Maine Emergency Management Agency; and
- 3. Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.** The Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

§3. Commissioner; Deputy Adjutant General

1. Adjutant General. The Adjutant General shall be the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and shall:

- A. Be appointed by the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans' affairs and confirmation by the Legislature and serve at the pleasure of the Governor;
- B. Not hold a grade above major general;
- C. Satisfy the requirements of section 107; and
- D. Have the following powers and duties.
 - (1) The Adjutant General shall administer the department subordinate only to the Governor.
 - (2) The Adjutant General shall establish methods of administration consistent with the law necessary for the efficient operation of the department.

- (3) The Adjutant General may prepare a budget for the department.
- (4) The Adjutant General may transfer personnel from one bureau to another within the department.
- (5) The Adjutant General shall supervise the preparation of all state informational reports required by the federal military establishment.
- (6) The Adjutant General shall keep an accurate account of expenses incurred and, in accordance with Title 5, sections 43 to 46, make a full report to the Governor as to the condition of the military forces, and as to all business transactions of the Military Bureau, including detailed statements of expenditures for military purposes.
- (7) The Adjutant General is responsible for the custody, care and repair of all military property belonging to or issued to the State for the military forces and shall dispose of military property belonging to the State that is unserviceable. The Adjutant General shall account for and deposit the proceeds from that disposal with the Treasurer of State who shall credit them to the Capital Repair, Maintenance, Construction and Acquisition Account of the Military Bureau.
- (8) The Adjutant General may sell for cash to officers of the state military forces, for their official use, and to organizations of the state military forces, any military or naval property that is the property of the State. The Adjutant General shall, with an annual report, render to the Governor an accurate account of the sales and deposit the proceeds of the sales with the Treasurer of State who shall credit them to the General Fund.
- (9) The Adjutant General shall represent the state military forces for the purpose of establishing the relationship between the federal military establishment and the various state military staff departments.
- (10) The Adjutant General shall accept, receive and administer federal funds for and on behalf of the State that are available for military purposes or that would further the intent and specific purposes of this chapter and chapter 3. The Adjutant General shall provide the personnel, supplies, services and matching funds required by a federal cost-sharing arrangement pursuant to 31 United States Code, Chapters 63 and 65 (2013); 32 United States Code (2013); and National Guard Regulation 5-1 (2010). The Adjutant General shall receive funds and property and an accounting for all expenditures and property acquired through such a federal cost-sharing arrangement and make returns and reports concerning those expenditures and that property as required by such federal cost-sharing arrangement.
- (11) The Adjutant General shall acquire, construct, operate and maintain military facilities necessary to comply with this Title and Title 32 of the United States Code and shall operate and maintain facilities now within or hereafter coming within the jurisdiction of the Military Bureau.
- (12) The Adjutant General may adopt rules pertaining to compliance with state and federal

contracting requirements, subject to Title 5, chapter 375. Those rules must provide for approval of contracts by the appropriate state agency.

- (13) The Adjutant General shall allocate and supervise any funds made available by the Legislature to the Civil Air Patrol.
- (14) The Adjutant General shall report at the beginning of each biennium to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans' affairs on any recommended changes or modifications to the laws governing veterans' affairs, particularly as those changes or modifications relate to changes in federal veterans' laws. The report must include information on the status of communications with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the potential health risks to and the potential disabilities of veterans who as members of the Maine National Guard were exposed to environmental hazards at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.
- (15) The Adjutant General may receive personal property from the United States Department of Defense that the Secretary of Defense has determined is suitable for use by agencies in law enforcement activities, including counter-drug activities, and in excess of the needs of the Department of Defense pursuant to 10 United States Code, Section 2576a, and transfer ownership of that personal property to state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies notwithstanding any other provision of law. The Adjutant General may receive excess personal property from the United States Department of Defense for use by the department, notwithstanding any other provision of law.
- (16) The Adjutant General may establish a science, mathematics and technology education improvement program for school children known as the STARBASE Program. The Adjutant General may accept financial assistance and in-kind assistance, advances, grants, gifts, contributions and other forms of financial assistance from the Federal Government or other public body or from other sources, public or private, to implement the STARBASE Program. The Adjutant General may employ a director and other employees, permanent or temporary, to operate the STARBASE Program.
- (17) The Adjutant General shall establish a system, to be administered by the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, to express formally condolence and appreciation to the closest surviving family members of members of the United States Armed Forces who, since September 11, 2001, are killed in action or die as a consequence of injuries that result in the award of a Purple Heart medal. In accordance with the existing criteria of the department for the awarding of gold star medals, this system must provide for the Adjutant General to issue up to 3 gold star medals to family members who reside in the State, one to the spouse of the deceased service member and one to the parents of the service member. If the parents of the service member are divorced, the Adjutant General may issue one medal to each parent. If the service member has no surviving spouse or parents or if they live outside of the State, the Adjutant General may issue a gold star medal to the service member's next of kin, as reported to the department, who resides in the State.

- (18) The Adjutant General may establish a National Guard Youth Challenge Program consistent with 32 United States Code, section 509 (1990). The Adjutant General may accept financial assistance from the Federal Government or other public body or from other sources, public and private, to implement the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. The Adjutant General may employ a director and other employees, permanent or temporary, to operate the program.
- (19) The Adjutant General may execute cooperative agreements for purposes described or defined by this Title and other arrangements necessary to operate the department.
- (20) The Adjutant General shall act as the Governor's homeland security advisor.

2. Deputy Adjutant General. The Deputy Adjutant General has all the military-related powers, responsibilities and duties of the Adjutant General if the Adjutant General is unable to act or, if the office is vacant, until the vacancy is filled by the Governor, as provided by law. The Deputy Adjutant General may perform other military duties of the Adjutant General as assigned by the Adjutant General or the Governor.

§4. Directors of bureaus

1. Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services. The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services is appointed by the commissioner and shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner.

2. Maine Emergency Management Agency. The Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency is appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the commissioner, reports administratively to the commissioner and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services and the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency shall perform civilian duties as assigned by the commissioner or the Governor.

§5. Deputy commissioner

The commissioner may appoint a deputy commissioner and assign duties and delegate authority to the deputy commissioner as considered appropriate by the commissioner or Governor. The deputy commissioner serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

§7. Issuance of free day use pass to active military personnel

The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in accordance with a memorandum of agreement entered into with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and this section, shall issue a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to eligible active duty military personnel.

1. Eligibility. The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall determine, based on an examination of an individual's military identification, whether the following criteria are met:

A. The person's home of residence is this State; and

B. The person is serving in an enlisted grade in the armed forces as defined in 10 United States Code, Section 101(a)(4).

2. Duration of passes. A pass issued in accordance with this section is valid for 12 months from the date of issuance and may be renewed upon verification of continuing eligibility.

3. Responsibilities of commissioner. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall identify a point of contact within the department to issue passes in accordance with this section and the memorandum of agreement entered into with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall periodically report to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with a listing of the names and addresses of all persons receiving passes to state parks and historic sites and the expiration dates for those passes.

§8. Issuance of free day use pass to veterans

The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in accordance with a memorandum of agreement entered into with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and this section, shall issue a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to eligible veterans.

1. Eligibility. The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall determine, based on an examination of an individual's discharge certificate from active duty services, also known as the DD214, whether the following criteria are met:

A. The person is a resident of this State; and

B. The person received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.

2. Responsibilities of commissioner. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall identify a point of contact within the department to issue passes in accordance with this section, Title 12, section 1819-A and the memorandum of agreement entered into with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall periodically report to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with a listing of the names and addresses of all persons receiving passes to state parks and historic sites and the beginning dates for those passes. A pass issued under this section does not expire and is valid for the lifetime of the holder.

§9. Report by Adjutant General

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may invite the Adjutant General to appear in February of each year before a joint session of the Legislature to address the

Legislature on defense, veterans' services and emergency management matters and such other matters as the Adjutant General desires to bring to the attention of the Legislature.

CHAPTER 3 MILITARY BUREAU

§101. Purpose

The Military Bureau has jurisdiction over and responsibility for the administration of the state military forces and the Maine Military Authority.

§101-A. Definitions

1. Active state service. As used in this Title, "active state service" means all military duty performed as a member of the state military forces pursuant to this Title or the United States Code, Title 32.

2. Military forces. "Military forces" means the state military forces, as defined in section 102.

§102. Composition

1. State military forces. The state military forces shall consist of:

- A. The Maine Army National Guard and the Maine Air National Guard, referred to in this Title as the "National Guard," when either or both are not in federal service, but not the Maine Military Authority; and
- B. The militia, the naval militia and the Maine State Guard when and if organized by direction of the Governor pursuant to the authority set forth in subchapter IV.

§103. Commander in Chief

The Governor shall be the constitutional Commander in Chief of the military forces of the State, except for components thereof which may, at times, be in the service of the United States. It shall be the duty of the Governor as Commander in Chief to prescribe orders, rules and other administrative procedures necessary to maintain the standard of organization and armament for the state military forces required by the laws and regulations of the United States. Subject to regulations prescribed by the federal military establishment, the Governor shall establish administrative procedures necessary to insure that adequate numbers of officers, warrant officers and enlisted men are appointed, commissioned and enlisted into the state military forces.

§104. Governor's military staff

The military staff of the Governor as Commander in Chief consists of:

1. Adjutant General. The Adjutant General, who is chief of staff;

2. Senior staff officers. The senior officer on duty with each of the staff sections organized under section 105; and

3. Other staff officers. Other staff officers appointed from time to time.

§105. Staff organization

The Governor may create, organize, abolish or reorganize staff sections that the Governor determines necessary to provide for the National Guard, other state military forces and the Maine Military Authority and appoint staff officers necessary to provide for the operation of the staff sections. Officers of those sections shall perform the duties required of them by law and those other duties not inconsistent with the laws of the State that correspond to the duties performed by officers in corresponding staff sections in the federal military establishment.

1. Personnel.

2. Contracts, leases, agreements, authorizations, notes or bonds.

3. Maine Veterans' Home Bonding Authority.

§106. Assistant adjutants general

The Adjutant General may, subject to the approval of the Governor, appoint an assistant adjutant general for the Maine Army National Guard and an assistant adjutant general for the Maine Air National Guard, each with the qualifications set forth in section 107, who may hold the grade of brigadier general and shall serve at the pleasure of the Adjutant General. The assistant adjutant general for the Maine Army National Guard shall be responsible for the general supervision of training and administration of the Maine Army National Guard and the assistant adjutant general for the Maine Air National Guard shall be responsible for the general supervision of training and administration of the Maine Air National Guard.

§107. Qualifications for appointment of Adjutant General and assistant adjutant general

A person appointed Adjutant General or assistant adjutant general must have attained the federally recognized rank of Colonel in the Maine National Guard and meet the criteria for federal recognition as a General Officer for either the United States Army National Guard or the United States Air National Guard as prescribed by federal service regulations.

1. Hold commission.

2. Service.

3. Meet federal criteria for recognition.

§108. Designation of Deputy Adjutant General

The assistant adjutant general for the Maine Army National Guard or the assistant adjutant general for the Maine Air National Guard may be appointed as Deputy Adjutant General. The Deputy Adjutant General has all the military related powers, responsibilities and duties of the Adjutant General if the Adjutant General is unable to act, or in case of a vacancy in the office of the Adjutant General until the vacancy is filled by the Governor, as provided by law. The Deputy Adjutant General may also perform other military duties of the Adjutant General as assigned by the Adjutant General or the Governor.

§110-A. Honorary military staff

The honorary military staff may consist of not more than 11 aides-de-camp commissioned by the Governor to serve during the Governor's term. Honorably discharged officers or enlisted personnel who served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard or Marine Corps during any war and who are not members of the state military forces may be appointed as aides-de-camp with the rank of colonel. One may be a naval aide with the rank of captain and one may be an Air Force aide with the rank of colonel. Aides-de-camp may be detailed from the commissioned officers of the state military forces, but officers so detailed may not be relieved from their regular duties, except when on duty with the Commander in Chief.

§158. Maine Military Family Relief Fund

The Maine Military Family Relief Fund. Referred to in this section as “the fund,” is established as a nonlapsing fund in the department administered according to rules adopted by the Adjutant General. The Adjutant General is authorized to award loans and grants from the fund for emergencies and other special needs to members or families of members of the Maine National Guard or residents of the State who are members or families of members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States and to distribute funds to a statewide nonprofit organization established for the purpose of providing assistance to members or families of members of the Maine National Guard or residents of the State who are members or families of members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States. Military Bureau shall adopt rules establishing eligibility criteria for the loans and grants. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§390. Deferred motor vehicle insurance coverage

1. Applicability. This section applies whenever any member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces is ordered to military duty in response to federal or state orders for 30 or more consecutive days.

2. Deferral of coverage. A member of the military forces as described in subsection 1 may defer without cost or penalty motor vehicle insurance coverage during the period of military duty on one or more vehicles owned by the member, either individually or jointly with another person, as long as the member certifies to the insurer that the vehicle will not be operated during the member's absence on military duty and, if a motor vehicle serves as collateral for a loan, the member must continue to insure it against the risks of property damage and theft as required by the lender.

3. Refund or crediting of prepaid premiums. The insurer shall, at the election of the member, refund premiums paid for coverage during the period of deferral or credit those premiums to coverage in effect after the end of the deferral period

4. Reinstatement of deferred coverage. Upon the member's release or discharge from military duty, the insurer shall, upon notice, reinstate the member's coverage at the rates in effect on the date of reinstatement.

§390-A. Waiver of continuing education requirements; extension of license, certificate or registration

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "active duty for a period of more than 30 days" has the same meaning as in 10 United States Code, Section 101(d)(2).

2. Waiver of continuing education requirements. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in Title 12, section 6311 a person who is a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces under an order to active duty for a period of more than 30 days and who was licensed, registered or certified to engage in a profession or occupation prior to entering into active duty for a period of more than 30 days may not be required to complete the continuing education requirements for that profession or occupation for any licensing, registration or certification period during that period of active duty and for 6 months after that person is released from active duty.

3. Automatic extension of license, certificate or registration. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in Title 12, section 6311 a person who is a member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces under an order to active duty for a period of more than 30 days and who was licensed, certified or registered to engage in a profession or occupation prior to being called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days and whose license, certificate or registration expires during that period of active duty must have that license, certificate or registration automatically extended for the period of active duty and for 6 months after that person has been released from active duty.

4. Limited application. This section applies only if the member's service is in support of:

- A. An operational mission for which members of the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces have been ordered to active duty without their consent; or
- B. Forces activated during a period of war declared by the United States Congress or a period of national emergency declared by the President of the United States or the United States Congress.

CHAPTER 7 BUREAU OF MAINE VETERANS' SERVICES

§501. Purpose

The Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, referred to in this chapter as the "bureau," is established and shall provide informational services, program assistance, memorial facilities and financial aid to veterans in the State and their dependents in order to ensure that they receive all entitlements due under the law, are relieved to the extent possible of financial hardship, receive every opportunity for self-improvement through higher education and are afforded proper recognition for their service and sacrifice to the Nation.

The bureau acts as the primary public advocate for veterans before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

§502. Director of Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services

The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, referred to in this chapter as the "director," shall direct the operation of the bureau.

§503. Powers and Duties

The director has the following powers and duties.

1. Employment of Personnel. The director may employ, subject to approval of the appointing authority and the Civil Service Law, the personnel necessary to administer this chapter. The director may employ a superintendent of the cemetery system, a veterans claims specialist and veterans service officers. The director and other employees referred to in this subsection must be veterans as defined by 38 United States Code, Section 101 (2) who were separated with an honorable discharge.

2. Expenditures. The director may make expenditures approved by the commissioner necessary to carry out this chapter.

3. Agent. The director shall act, upon request, as the agent of any Maine resident who has a legitimate claim against the United States for any benefit accruing as a result of any federal or state military service and, in cooperation with all public and private agencies, shall prosecute the claim without charge.

§503-A. Rules

The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management may, in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II, adopt reasonable rules necessary to carry out this chapter, provided that regulations pertaining to the management of the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System are not rules within the meaning of Title 5, section 8002, subsection 9.

§504. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

1. Land acquisition. The director may acquire by eminent domain in accordance with Title 35-A, chapter 65 and with approval of the Governor, or by purchase, gift or otherwise, real estate in fee simple, or any interest therein, for use by the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System.

2. Superintendent. The director, with approval of the appointing authority, shall appoint a competent and trustworthy superintendent of the cemetery system and shall arrange for personnel, material and equipment necessary for adequate maintenance of the cemeteries.

3. Monuments, buildings and markers. The director shall erect a suitable monument in the center of each cemetery.

A. The monument must be suited to the topography of the land and display, on suitable flag poles, the national emblem and the state flag in accordance with the Flag Code.

B. The immediate area surrounding the monument must be prepared and reserved as a suitable place for commemorating Memorial Day and other appropriate observances. The remaining grounds must be laid out in a wheel-like pattern around the monument, expanding from the center as required. Suitable buildings may be erected for purposes the director determines necessary.

C. All grave markers must be flat-type granite or 42-inch upright white marble grave markers as furnished by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration. All boxes used for burial must be protected with permanent vaults. Permanent vaults must be reinforced and properly cured and match pounds per square inch specifications imposed by the National Cemetery Administration. Vaults may be either water-resistant or waterproof or have drain holes in their liner boxes as long as they meet the stated specifications. Headstones and vaults are not provided at state expense.

4. Burials. Burials in the cemeteries must be as follows.

A-1. As used in this subsection, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

(1) "Eligible dependent" means the wife, husband, surviving spouse, unmarried minor child, unmarried dependent child enrolled in secondary school or unmarried adult child who became incapable of self-support before reaching 18 years of age on account of mental or physical disabilities.

(2) "Eligible veteran" means any person who:

(a) Served in the active United States Armed Forces and who:

(i) If discharged, received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions, provided that the discharge was not upgraded through a program of general amnesty;

(b) Served in the Maine National Guard and died as a result of injury, disease or illness sustained while serving on active state service as provided in chapter 3, subchapter 3; or

(d) Served in the Reserve Components of the United States Armed Forces and was entitled to retired pay under 10 United States Code, chapter 1223 or would have been entitled to

retired pay under chapter 1223 except that the person was under 60 years of age; or

- (e) Died while serving in the Active Guard Reserve and whose death is determined to be in the line of duty.

B. The director must allow the earth burial in one of the cemeteries of any eligible veteran who requests burial in the cemetery system. The director must allow the veteran the option of crypt burial if crypt space exists. All burials must be without charge.

C. At the dependent's request, the director must allow an eligible dependent of a veteran to be buried in one of the cemeteries if, at the date of the dependent's death, the veteran would be eligible for burial. Dependents may be buried in the same grave as the veteran or adjacent to the veteran, in accordance with regional state veterans' cemetery procedures, without charge, so long as:

- (1) If the veteran dies first, the dependents specify in writing their intention to be so buried;
- (2) If the dependent dies first, the veteran specifies in writing the intention to be buried in the same grave as the dependent or adjacent to the dependent; or
- (3) Eligible family members of members of the armed services or veterans who are permanently buried overseas, buried at sea, missing in action and declared dead, or whose bodies are inaccessible for other reasons, may be buried in one of the cemeteries if the deceased member of the armed services or veteran was eligible for the burial at the time of death.

D. The plots must be reserved as necessary and a permanent record of all burials must be kept.

E. Remains of eligible veterans or eligible dependents previously buried in other cemeteries may be reinterred in one of the cemeteries upon request, as long as no cost other than that which would be incurred in an original burial is borne by the State.

F. This subsection may not be construed to obligate the State beyond the furnishing of a grave site, opening and closing of the grave and maintenance of the grave and the cemeteries thereafter in perpetuity.

G. The interment of an eligible veteran or eligible dependent is permanent and final except that the director may allow disinterment as long as there is no cost to the State.

5. Weekend visitation. The superintendent shall arrange public access during weekend daylight hours and regularly scheduled weekday visiting hours unless closure of the cemetery is considered necessary by the superintendent for security or public safety purposes.

6. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund. There is established the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund, an interest-bearing account, referred to in this subsection as "the fund." The fund receives money deposited by the Treasurer of State pursuant to Title 36, section 5289 and any other money contributed voluntarily to the fund. All money deposited in the fund and the earnings on that money remain in the fund to be used for the maintenance and

upkeep of Maine veterans' cemeteries and for the necessary administrative and personnel costs associated with the management of the fund. Money in the fund may not be deposited in the General Fund or any other fund except as specifically provided by law.

7. Flag placement program. The director of the cemetery system shall establish a program to facilitate the placement of 12-inch by 18-inch American flags at the graves of veterans buried in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. This program must allow for volunteer organizations to place flags on graves beginning 2 days prior to the day Memorial Day is observed and for removal by volunteer organizations 3 days after the day Memorial Day is observed. The director of the cemetery system shall permit a limited extension beyond the 3 days, so that the flags do not have to be removed in inclement weather. The director of the cemetery system is authorized to use funds as provided in subsection 8 and to accept private donations of flags, tools or other equipment necessary to implement the program.

8. Flag placement fund. There is established the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Flag Placement Fund, an interest-bearing account, referred to in this subsection as "the fund." The fund receives money appropriated from the General Fund and any other money contributed voluntarily to the fund. All money deposited in the fund and the earnings on that money remain in the fund to be used to implement the flag placement program as described in subsection 7, specifically for the purchase of new flags as needed to ensure each veteran's grave is decorated as required by subsection 7 and as replacements for damaged flags. Money in the fund may not be deposited in the General Fund or any other fund except as specifically provided by law.

§505. Aid to veterans and their dependents

2. Educational benefits. Educational benefits are granted as follows.

A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- (1) "Child" means a natural child whose mother or father is or was a veteran or a child who was adopted prior to turning 18 years of age and whose adoptive mother or father is or was a veteran and who:
 - (a) Is at least 16 years of age;
 - (b) Has graduated from high school; and
 - (c) Enrolled in a degree program and awarded benefits under this subsection prior to the child's 22nd birthday. If the child is unable to enroll in a degree program prior to turning 22 years of age due to service in the United States Armed Forces, then the child may apply to begin this benefit until reaching 26 years of age. Other requirements must be met as described in paragraph F.

"Child" also means a stepchild who is a member of a veteran's household either at the time of application or, in the event of the veteran's death, at the time of death, and who continues as a

member of the household after the death of the veteran. At least 5 years must have elapsed since the veteran married the parent of the stepchild before the stepchild is eligible for educational benefits, and the biological parent of the stepchild must reside in the veteran's household while the stepchild receives educational benefits.

- (2) "Spouse" means the person currently legally married to a living veteran or the unremarried widow or widower of a deceased veteran, not previously divorced from that veteran.

Awards under the educational benefits program are authorized to provide benefits to only one spouse per veteran.

- (3) "Veteran" means any person who served in the military or naval forces of the United States and entered the service from this State or has been a resident of this State for 5 years immediately preceding application for aid and if living, continues to reside in this State throughout the duration of benefits administered under the educational benefits program and who:

- (a) Has a total permanent disability resulting from a service-connected disability as a result of service;
- (b) Was killed in action;
- (c) Died from a service-connected disability as a result of service;
- (d) At the time of death was totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected disability but whose death was not related to the service-connected disability; or
- (e) Is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty who has been listed for more than 90 days as missing in action, captured or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.

- E. Spouses of veterans who are attending state-supported postsecondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for a certificate program or an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree program. Room and board may not be waived. Spouses are entitled to receive up to 120 credit hours of educational benefits and have 10 years from the date of first entrance to complete the program. This paragraph applies to all spouses enrolled in the educational benefits program as of September 1, 2007.

- F. A child of a veteran who is attending state-supported postsecondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate and bachelor's programs. The tuition waiver provided under the paragraph may be reduced by an amount necessary to ensure that the value of this waiver, combined with all other grants and benefits received by the student, does not exceed the total

cost of education. Room and board may not be waived. A child of a veteran has 6 academic years from the date of first entrance to complete 120 credit hours. For degree programs that require more than 120 credit hours, the state-supported postsecondary vocational school or institution of collegiate grade may grant a tuition waiver beyond 120 credit hours. If such a waiver is granted, the state-supported postsecondary vocational school or institution of collegiate grade shall notify the director. The director may waive the limit of 6 consecutive academic years when the recipient's education has been interrupted by severe medical disability, learning disability, illness or other hardship, making continued attendance impossible, however, the extension may not exceed 2 academic years. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 or "C" grade point average to continue receiving educational benefits. If a student's grade point average falls below 2.0 or a "C," then the student has one semester to bring the grade point average up to at least 2.0 or a "C." If after that semester the student's grade point average is below 2.0 or "C," the student loses educational benefits under this paragraph until the student achieves a grade point average of at least 2.0 or a "C."

- G. In order to be eligible for benefits under this subsection, a student must apply for a Federal Pell Grant under 20 United States Code, Section 1070a. The director shall estimate the number of students anticipated that will use this program and provide the estimate to state institutions upon request.
- H. A school that provides tuition assistance pursuant to this subsection shall provide any information, such as enrollment verification, current contact information, semester grade point average, accumulated credit hours and transcripts, to the bureau as necessary for the bureau to properly administer the educational benefits described in this subsection in accordance with current laws.

3. Fraud. Whoever knowingly makes a false statement, oral or written, relating to a material fact in support of application for aid under this section is guilty of a violation of Title 17-A, section 353.

4. Vietnam and atomic veterans. (Repealed)

5. Public assistance designation. Assistance granted to veterans or their dependents pursuant to this section is designated public assistance. The department retains administrative responsibility for assistance granted under this section.

6. Determination of residency. The bureau shall verify that a person seeking benefits as provided by this section is a current resident of the State. The forms of identification sufficient to determine residency in accordance with this section are:

- A. A valid state driver's license;
- B. A valid state-issued identification card;
- C. A current state motor vehicle registration form;
- D. A current state fishing or hunting license; and
- E. Items other than those listed in paragraphs A to D that allow the bureau to reasonably determine residency.

§506. Certain documents confidential

All claims and documents pertaining to claims for benefits under this chapter, whether pending or adjudicated, are confidential and privileged. No disclosure of those claims or documents may be made without the written consent of the claimant, except that disclosure may be made:

- 1. Claimant or representative.** To the claimant personally, as to matters concerning the claimant alone, when, in the director's judgment, the disclosure would not be injurious to the claimant's physical or mental health, or to the claimant's duly appointed guardian or duly authorized representative holding a power or appointment approved by the supervisor;
- 2. Veterans' organization.** To the representative of a veterans' organization holding power of appointment from the claimant, provided that the organization is recognized by the United States Government and duly certified as such by the state department of the organization;
- 3. Courts.** To any court of competent jurisdiction, when required by the process of the court, in an action pending under the laws of this State or the United States; and
- 4. Agencies engaged in health and welfare work.** To any public or private agency engaged in health, welfare, rehabilitation or child placement work, from whom a veteran or that veteran's dependents have requested services, when, in the veteran advocate's judgment, disclosure is essential to the proper evaluation of the request.

§507. Authority to receive federal funds

The bureau may accept federal funds under any federal law now in effect or hereafter enacted that makes these funds available to the states for:

- 1. Furnish information to veterans, beneficiaries and dependents.** Furnishing information to veterans and their beneficiaries and dependents concerning their rights under laws of the United States and other states relating to veterans' benefits;
- 2. Provide assistance.** Providing assistance in making application for benefits;
- 3. Reemployment and readjustment.** Furnishing information and assistance respecting reemployment and other matters concerning the readjustment of veterans to civilian life;
- 4. Federal requirements.** Meeting such federal requirements regarding the administration of federal funds as may be conditions precedent to the receipt of these funds.
- 5. Cemetery construction and maintenance.** The state cemetery grants program.

§507-A. Custodian to provide copies

When a copy of any public record is required by the United States Veterans' Administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in benefits made available by the

United States Veterans' Administration, the official custodian of that public record shall, without charge, provide the applicant for these benefits, or any person acting on his behalf or the authorized representative of the United States Veterans' Administration, with a certified copy of that record.

§508. Veteran service officers

Veteran service officers shall serve, assist and advocate for all veterans. A veteran service officer must be trained and conversant on the issues, benefits and definitions affecting all veterans, including atomic, Vietnam, Desert Storm and female veterans. The bureau shall have at least one veteran service officer who specializes in female veterans' issues.

§509. Confidentiality of military service records

1. Certificate of release. A certificate of release or discharge, casualty report, death notice or other record pertaining to active duty service issued by the United States Government, classified by the United States Government as confidential and filed for safekeeping with any state, county or local government authority is confidential for a period of 62 years following its date of issuance. During that 62-year period, it is unlawful for a person to permit inspection of the record, to disclose information contained in the record or to issue a copy of all or any part of the record except as authorized by this section or by court order. Nothing in this section may be construed to make a record confidential that is not directed to be confidential by the United States Government.

2. Identification. Upon presentation of proper identification, any of the following persons may examine a record filed pursuant to this section and obtain free of charge a copy or certified copy of all or part of the record:

- A. The person who is the subject of the record;
- B. The spouse or next of kin of the person who is the subject of the record;
- C. A person named in an appropriate power of attorney executed by the person who is the subject of the record;
- D. The administrator, executor, guardian or legal representative of the person who is the subject of the record;
- E. An attorney for any person specified in paragraphs A to D of this subsection;
- F. A civilian employee or military member of the department when in the conduct of official duties;
or
- G. The administrator of the Maine Veterans' Home when in the conduct of official duties.

3. Records. Records kept pursuant to this section may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any commercial or speculative purposes.

4. Disclose. An individual, agency or court that obtains information pursuant to this section may not disseminate or disclose the information or any part of this information except as authorized in this section or otherwise by law.

5. Release of information for veterans honor roll. Upon request in a manner determined by the bureau, the bureau may release the following information relating to a person from a municipality who has honorably served in the United States Armed Forces to a municipal officer, as defined in Title 30-A, section 2001, subsection 11, for the purpose of establishing a veterans honor roll in that municipality:

- A. The name of the person;
- B. The date the person entered the service;
- C. The branch of the service entered; and
- D. The date the person was honorably discharged.

§510. Commemorative certificates, coins and medal

A commemorative certificates, coins and medals recognition program is established as follows.

1. Design; construct; issue. The director is authorized to design, construct and issue commemorative certificates, coins and medals honoring Maine's veterans serving in different conflicts. For World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War, the commemorative items must be of a design similar to the World War II, Korean Conflict and Vietnam War plaques that are displayed in the Hall of Flags in the State House.

2. Solicit donations. The bureau is authorized to solicit donations from private citizens, corporations and entities to help fund the design, construction and issuance of commemorative items under this section.

3. Advisory committee. The bureau shall establish an advisory committee of interested persons, including, but not limited to, veterans of the Persian Gulf War and the wars in Iraq and veterans from the period from 1947 to 1990, to develop commemorative items honoring veterans. Approval of commemorative items rests with the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

4. Purchase by public. Specially identified commemorative certificates, coins and medals may be sold to the public as long as they are distinctive from those items awarded to the actual veterans.

§511. Fund established

A nonlapsing fund is established for the purpose of receiving funds from the State, donations from private citizens, corporations and entities and funds from the sales of commemorative items to pay the costs of the program established under section 510.

§512. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund

The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund, known in this section as "the fund" is established for the purpose of ensuring ongoing care and maintenance of veterans' graves within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System after plot interment allowances for burials within the system are no longer received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The fund is established from deposits of 1/3 of the funds received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for plot interment allowances and from annual deposits from the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund established by section 514. The fund may also accept private and public donations. The fund is separate from other perpetual care or cemetery maintenance funds that support veterans' cemeteries and were established prior to the effective date of this section.

§512-A. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board

1. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board; establishment.

The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 5-C and referred to in this section as "the board," shall monitor, facilitate and provide recommendations for the administration, management and use of the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund.

2. Members. The board consists of the following 7 members appointed by the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management:

- A.** One member representing the interest of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management;
- B.** One member representing the interests of the Treasurer of State;
- C.** One member representing the interests of the American Legion or a successor organization;
- D.** One member representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a successor organization;
- E.** One member representing the interests of Disabled American Veterans or a successor organization;
- F.** One member representing the interests of American Veterans or a successor organization; and
- G.** One member representing the interests of an organization that provides a forum for veterans' organizations to work together on behalf of veterans in the State.

3. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the board, the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy until the expiration of

the term. A vacancy on the board must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made under subsection 2.

- 4. Terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 512-A, subsection 4, of the initial members of the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board, the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall designate 2 appointees to serve for one-year terms, 2 appointees to serve for 2-year terms and 3 appointees to serve for 3-year terms.
- 5. Removal.** The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management may remove a member of the board for cause.
- 6. Voting; quorum.** A quorum consists of 5 members of the board. Each member has one vote. A recommendation may not be approved by the board without at least 3 affirmative votes.
- 7. Board proceedings.** The board shall meet not less than annually at a date and time set by the director. The director shall prepare the agenda, prepare and keep a summarized record of meetings. The board may not make binding decisions but shall vote on recommendations. The director shall be present at the meetings to facilitate the meetings. The director does not have a vote.

§513. Homelessness prevention coordination

The director shall establish a partnership with a national, human services-based volunteer organization to coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State. The volunteer organization must have as its core programs addressing homelessness and veterans' services and have been active as a human services-based volunteer organization for a minimum of 30 years. The director may accept donations from outside sources and federal funding to accomplish the priorities of the partnership. If federal or outside funding is available, the priorities of this partnership, listed in order of priority, include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Identification.** Identifying homeless veterans in the State;
- 2. Outreach events.** Conducting annual outreach events, targeted to reach the maximum number of veterans in need, to disseminate information on resources and services available to assist homeless veterans; and
- 3. Funding homes.** Identifying and securing temporary or permanent living space for veterans within the veterans' communities.

§514. Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund; establishment; report.

The Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established to provide financial assistance to veterans' service organizations. Beginning July 1, 2013 the director shall make distributions from the fund as follows:

1. Transportation for medical needs of veterans. Fifteen thousand dollars annually to a veterans' service organization that has maintained for the previous 5 years consecutively as of January 1, 2013 a program of providing transportation to veterans receiving medical services at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus or outreach centers of the veterans hospital;

2. Veteran service officers at veterans hospital. Sixty-four thousand five hundred dollars annually to each veterans' service organization that has funded and maintained a veteran service officer at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus for at least one year as of January 1, 2013; If revenues in the fund are insufficient to make the full amount of the distributions required by this subsection, the director shall divide the amount of available funds equally between the veterans' service organizations; and

3. Other veterans programs. The remainder of the funds, distributed by the director after payment of any fees applied by the State for administration of the fund, as follows:

A. Sixty-eight percent to the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund established by section 512, subsection 1;

B. Twenty percent to organizations that coordinate an annual event to benefit homeless veterans by providing warm clothing and personal items; and

C. Twelve percent to purchase flags for graves at veterans' cemeteries.

Beginning in 2014, the director shall submit a report annually by February 15th regarding the distribution of these funds, including information from organizations that received the funds, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs.

CHAPTER 11 MAINE VETERANS' HOME

§601. Home established; purpose

There must be public homes for veterans in Maine known as "Maine Veterans' Homes." In addition to the existing 120-bed home located in Augusta, a 120-bed home located in Scarborough, a home not to exceed 40 beds located in Caribou, a home located in Bangor not to exceed 120 beds, of which 40 beds are dedicated to patients with dementia, and a home located in South Paris not to exceed 90 beds, of which 30 beds are dedicated to patients with dementia, may be constructed if federal Veterans' Administration funds are available to meet part of the costs of each facility for construction or operation. In addition, a home located in Machias not to exceed 60 beds may be constructed if federal Veterans' Administration funds or funds from any other state, federal or private source are available to meet part of the costs of the facility for construction or operation, except that the Machias home may not begin operation prior to July 1, 1995 and the construction and funding of the Machias home may not in any way jeopardize the construction, funding or financial viability of any other home. The Maine Veterans' Homes also are authorized to provide nonnursing facility care and services to Maine veterans if approved by appropriate state and federal authorities. The Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes shall plan and develop the Machias home and any nonnursing

facility care and services using any funds available for that purpose, except for the Augusta facility's funded depreciation account. The Maine Veterans' Homes are authorized to construct community-based outpatient clinics for Maine veterans in cooperation with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and may construct and operate veterans hospice facilities, veterans housing facilities and other facilities authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes, using available funds. Any funds loaned to the Maine Veterans' Homes for operating purposes from the funded depreciation accounts of the Maine Veterans' Homes must be reimbursed from any funds received by the Maine Veterans' Homes and available for that purpose. The primary purpose of the Maine Veterans' Homes is to provide support and care for honorably discharged veterans who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or who served in the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces on active duty for other than training purposes.

§602. Body corporate; powers

The Maine Veterans' Home is a body corporate. In addition to other powers granted by this chapter, the Maine Veterans' Home may:

- 1. Contracts.** Make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its powers and functions under this chapter;
- 2. Acquire property.** Acquire, in the name of the home, real or personal property or any interest therein, including rights or easements, on either a temporary or long-term basis by gift, purchase, transfer, foreclosure, lease or otherwise.
- 3. Hold or dispose of property.** Hold, sell, assign, lease, rent, encumber, mortgage or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property, or any interest therein, or mortgage interest owned by it or in its control, custody or possession and release or relinquish any right, title, claim, lien, interest, easement or demand however acquired, including threat of foreclosure;
- 4. Procure insurance.** Procure insurance against any loss in connection with its property and other assets in amounts and from insurers which it deems desirable;
- 5. Receive bequests and donations.** Receive, on behalf of the State, bequests and donations that may be made to improve the general comfort and welfare of the members of the home or for the betterment of the home;
- 6. Borrow funds.** Borrow funds, not in excess of \$15,000,000 in the aggregate, make and issue bonds and negotiate notes and other evidences of indebtedness or obligations of the veterans' home for prudent and reasonable capital, operational and maintenance purposes. The home may secure payments of all or part of the obligations by pledge of part of the revenues or assets of the home that are available for pledge and that may be lawfully pledged or by mortgage of part, or all, of any property owned by the home. The home may do all lawful things necessary and incidental to those powers. The home may borrow money from the Federal Government and its agencies, from state agencies and from any other source. The home may borrow money from the State subject to approval by the Treasurer of State and the Governor. Bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness issued under this subsection shall not be deemed to constitute debts of the State, nor a pledge of the credit of

the State, but shall be payable solely from the funds of the home; and

7. Other acts. Do other acts necessary or convenient to exercise the powers granted or reasonably implied in this section.

§602-A. Development and implementation of geriatric training programs

1. Cooperation. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall work cooperatively with appropriate provider and consumer groups, including the Department of Human Services, the Maine Committee on Aging, the Maine Health Care Association, the Home Care Alliance of Maine and the Maine Hospital Association, in order to develop and implement appropriate geriatric training programs.

2. Manual; training and educational programs. The Maine Veterans' Homes, in concert with the groups listed in subsection 1, shall:

- A. Prepare a manual on the clinical care of geriatric patients, to be completed by June 30, 1991, with 1/3 of the manual being completed each year;
- B. Conduct a series of 12 to 14 educational programs annually, in different locations of the State, in order to communicate with health care providers and state surveyors on the content of this manual;
- C. Prepare a series of 6 to 8 management training programs for nursing personnel and conduct 12 to 14 educational programs annually for a period of 3 years leading to a formal program of certification in long-term care nursing management; and
- D. Prepare and conduct such other geriatric educational programs as may be determined appropriate within the limits of the funds authorized for this project.

3. Pilot project. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall establish a demonstration project utilizing the concept of a teaching nursing home, in collaboration with appropriate provider and consumer groups, as a mechanism to increase the number of health care providers with improved capabilities to deliver geriatric care to the State's elderly population.

4. Fees. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall charge fees for the educational programs and materials provided under this section. The fees charged shall be based on the costs of providing the educational materials.

5. Federal funds. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall work with the Department of Human Services in order to obtain maximum federal financial participation in fulfilling the purposes of this section.

6. Other funding sources. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall seek, in conjunction with appropriate provider and consumer groups, permanent sources of funding for the continuation of this demonstration project on a self-sustaining basis.

7. Duration. The length of this demonstration project shall be no longer than 3 years.

8. Account. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall maintain in a separate account, not commingled with any other sources of revenue, the funds appropriated for or generated by the fulfillment of the purpose of this section.

9. Annual report. The Maine Veterans' Homes shall submit annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources an audited financial statement and a description of program accomplishments for the previous year and program goals for the succeeding year.

10. Unused funds. At the end of the 3-year demonstration period, any unused appropriation or any funds generated by the educational programs authorized by this section shall lapse to the General Fund of the State unless the Legislature authorizes otherwise.

§603. Board of trustees

The administration of the homes is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 34. The board consists of 11 members, one of whom must be the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, ex officio, who serves without term. The Governor shall appoint the remaining trustees, who must be honorably discharged war veterans. One member must be a woman. One member must be appointed from and represent each of the largest veterans' organizations, not exceeding 5, that are nationally chartered and have a department in Maine. The remaining members must be appointed at large and shall serve staggered 3-year terms. The membership must be distributed across the State so that approximately 1/3 reside in the southern part of the State, approximately 1/3 in the central part and approximately 1/3 in the northern part. In the event of a vacancy, a successor must be appointed to complete a member's unexpired term. Each trustee continues to hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified.

§604. Conduct of board business

1. Fiscal year. The board shall adhere to the same fiscal year as the State.

2. Meetings. The board shall meet at least 6 times annually. Six members constitute a quorum.

3. Selection of officers. At its first annual meeting, which shall be held in July each year, the board shall elect a chairman and secretary for that fiscal year.

4. Special meetings. Special meetings may be called by agreement of a majority of the trustees.

5. Appointment of administrator. The board shall appoint an administrator in accordance with section 606.

6. Other funds. The board may apply for and receive any grants-in-aid for which the State or the home maybe eligible.

7. Rules. The board shall adopt rules necessary to administer the home, to establish just charges for the maintenance of members and to oversee the operation of the home. In adopting rules, the board shall seek comments and information from home staff, members, members' families and other relevant sources, but the Maine Administrative Procedure Act provisions regarding rulemaking, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II, shall not apply.

8. Assistance. Every department and agency of the State, when requested, may furnish such assistance, counsel or advice as the board may require in the discharge of its duties.

§605. Compensation of the board

Trustees shall be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

§606. Administrator

The administrator must be an honorably discharged veteran who shall administer the home in accordance with the rules, guidelines and general policies established by the board. The administrator serves an indefinite term, but may be removed for cause by the board. The administrator's salary is set by the board. The administrator shall hire the necessary employees to operate the home and, whenever possible, give preference in hiring to war veterans. These employees are not deemed employees of the State.

§607. Admission

Veterans desiring admission to the home must apply on forms prescribed by the administrator. The administrator shall grant admission only to veterans who were residents of Maine at the time of their entry into the United States Armed Forces or who are residents of Maine at the time of application, and to the spouses, widows or widowers of eligible veterans, provided that suitable facilities are available. Parents of armed services members who are killed in action or die as a consequence of wounds received in battle are also eligible, as so called "gold star" parents, for admission. Admission must be granted when provisions of the rules governing private payment, Medicare and Medicaid eligibility to entitled persons are met.

§608. Charges

Each veteran admitted to the home shall pay to the State, as prescribed by the board, the share of the costs of his maintenance which he can afford.

§610. Support and maintenance fund

All funds received by the Maine Veterans' Home, including federal Veterans' Administration stipend funds, must be held in a permanent fund to be used as required by the administrator for the support and maintenance of the homes. A percentage of these funds approved by the board of trustees must be placed in reserve for capital improvement expenditures. The board of trustees shall operate the homes, when constructed, as self-liquidating projects until all the bonds issued as provided by this chapter are retired. Any funds received in excess of that necessary for the support and maintenance of

the homes, the capital reserve fund and funds necessary for retirement of any outstanding bonds or indebtedness as those payments become due at the end of each fiscal year must be transferred to the Treasurer of State where they are to be applied as credits to the General Fund. The Department of Human Services may not modify its principles of reimbursement for long-term care facilities to specifically exclude reimbursement for the depreciation of the assets created with federal or state grants.

The provisions of this section pertaining to the Department of Human Services' reimbursement of long-term care facilities for depreciation of assets created with federal or state grants do not apply to renovations undertaken by the Maine Veterans' Homes 120-bed Augusta nursing facility in accordance with a certificate of need application filed January 22, 2002. The Department of Human Services shall amend its rules regarding reimbursement of long-term care facilities accordingly. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§610-A. Stipend funds

The Maine Veterans' Homes retain as direct income revenue any stipend funds they may receive from the federal Veterans' Administration for the homes' entire eligible resident population.

The Department of Human Services may neither receive the proceeds nor require the application of stipend funds in the Medicare or Medicaid rate justification submissions by the Maine Veterans' Homes.

§610-B. Use of stipend funds

The Maine Veterans' Homes shall expend stipend funds received pursuant to section 610-A primarily on the payment of debt service on, or the setting aside of funds irrevocably to repay as soon as possible, the outstanding principal amount of the bonded indebtedness of the homes and the bonded indebtedness of the State on which the homes are obligated to pay debt service. Any interest earned on funds set aside irrevocably to repay such bonded indebtedness must be credited to the General Fund.

Annually, at the beginning of each fiscal year, the Maine Veterans' Homes shall prepare and file with the Department of Human Services a written work plan for the use of its anticipated financial resources including stipend funds in that fiscal year.

The Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes in conjunction with the Commissioner of Human Services may agree to develop additional requirements regarding operation of the homes as needed.

§611. Reports

The board shall make an annual report to the Governor. This report shall contain an accounting for all money received and expended, statistics on members who resided in the home during the year, recommendations to the Governor and Legislature and such other matters as the board deems

pertinent. The administrator, subject to approval of the board, shall compile a biennial budget on the forms and at the time required of other state agencies.

CHAPTER 25 WOMEN VETERANS

§1151. Advisory Commission on Women Veterans

1. Establishment. The Advisory Commission on Women Veterans, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 5-B and referred to in this section as the "commission," shall act as an advisory commission to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management on issues affecting women veterans. The commission shall also serve as a liaison between women veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center at Togus.

2. Membership. The commission is composed of no fewer than 3 and no more than 5 members, all of whom must be women veterans, to be appointed by the Adjutant General.

3. Chair. The commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

4. Terms of office. The term of office of a member is 3 years.

5. Compensation. Members of the commission are entitled to be reimbursed for their expenses.

6. Staff assistance. The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall provide assistance to the commission in the conduct of its business.

7. Meetings. The commission shall meet at least 3 times a year.

8. Duties. The duties of the commission are to:

A. Advise the Maine Women Veterans Coordinator and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management on issues affecting women veterans.

9. Maine Women Veterans Coordinator. The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services shall contract for a Maine Women Veterans Coordinator, referred to in this section as "the coordinator." The coordinator shall serve as a liaison to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management on behalf of women veterans. The coordinator shall represent women veterans and communicate issues related to women veterans, including issues presented by the commission, to the United States Veterans Administration and state, regional and national veterans organizations or working groups. The coordinator shall engage in activities that disseminate information to women veterans in the State regarding available federal and state services intended to serve veterans generally and women veterans specifically. The contract may include the costs of conference fees, lodging and professional membership fees for the coordinator directly related to the duties described in this subsection. The coordinator shall submit an annual report to the director as determined by the director.

10. Fund created. The Fund for Women Veterans is established and is administered by the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services for the purpose of reimbursing members of the commission for expenses directly related to their duties under subsection 8, including biannual conference attendance fees and lodging fees associated with a conference. The fund may also be used to pay the contracted services of the coordinator. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing fund. The director shall submit a report by January 15th annually on the work of the coordinator and commission including an accounting of expenditures of the fund to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs.

11. Repeal. This section is repealed June 30, 2015.

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